

GALERIEKORNFELD

GALERIE KORNFELD presents RALF PETERS

Duration

March 1 to April 6, 2013, Tue-Sat 11 am to 6 pm

Reception for the Artist

Fri, March 1, 2013, 6 to 9 pm

Location:

Galerie Kornfeld, Fasanenstraße 26, D-10719 Berlin

Ladies and Gentlemen,

in an era in which the digitally designed, virtual worlds of cinema, video games and advertising are commonplace and appear much more real than reality itself, the German artist Ralf Peters cleverly plays with our expectations of the medium of photography.

Ralf Peters, who was born in 1960 in Lüneburg, works with a wide range of different subjects, motifs and techniques. All of his works are based on observations and motifs from everyday life. Like a classical photographer, the artist finds his pictures through the close observation of his environment. Yet the motif is only a first step on the way to an image that is less a statement about reality, but much more a reflection on photography and its relationship to visible reality.

The photographed image thus becomes a construction, the appearance of which is not so much based on reality, but a calculated aestheticization thereof. A photograph by Ralf Peters does not seem "real" because it documents an observed scene. Rather, the pictures by Ralf Peters approach a notion of authenticity that comes less from one's own outlook, and much more from those digitally altered images of reality that we have seen a thousand times. The conceptual photographs by Ralf Peters constantly confront the viewer with the question of whether the artist is genuinely reproducing an observed scene, or whether his photos are actually an elaborately produced digital manipulation of the visible. A soberly captured photograph can sometimes seem stranger than a digitally altered image.

Works by Ralf Peters, who often works in series, achieve their tension through precisely this paradox. In the series "Night / Colors" individual trees are cleverly lit before a background of nighttime darkness and transformed into sculptural objects. In "Candies", on the other hand, the shapes of the photographed objects are dissolved through the lack of focus, resulting in candy-colored, almost abstract compositions. In "Skylines" the extreme vertical format puts the motif of the title right down at the lower image border, so that it becomes an almost marginal factor in an image dominated by a neutral sky. The six-part work "Indoor" and the image "Prince" show almost abstract structures that can be seen as a photographic investigation of the relationship between space and surface. Some individual works, such as "Pool" or "Schwarz-Weiß", seem as if the photographer has intentionally arranged the found scenery.

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Ralf Peters studied sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. His works have been shown worldwide in numerous solo and group exhibitions, most recently, for example, in the exhibition "Out of Focus. After Gerhard Richter" in the Hamburg Kunsthalle. His works are found in major public and private collections such as the Lenbachhaus in Munich, the collection of the Deutsche Bank or UBS Bank in Zurich and Milan.

I will gladly send you print-quality photos or other images on request.

For questions or further information, my colleague Hannah Linder and I will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Hannah Linder | Dr. Tilman Treusch

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