



NEW RELEASE

Jessica Backhaus cut outs

Essay by Katharina Scriba
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The pictures in Jessica Backhaus' new series are created by using the simplest means and they reduce photography to its basic elements: light and shadow, shape and color.

In her last publication *Trilogy* (Kehrer), Jessica Backhaus has taken a path into abstraction, which is consistently continued here – with analog, photographic methods. Cut out transparent paper reacts to the heat of intense sunlight, deforms, rises, and casts shadows. The photographer who arranged and staged these compositions becomes an astonished observer of events on which she has only limited influence, the documentarist of a visual experimental arrangement, a poetic choreography of intense colors in the sunlight.

This artist book is published in an edition of 750 signed copies.

From the text by **Katharina Scriba**, Goethe Institute, Paris:
An interplay of light, shadows, and colors animates the images in Jessica Backhaus's new series cut outs. The photographer captures exactly what she sees with her camera, and yet these works have an abstract air. Anyone familiar with the artist's oeuvre will recognize this series as a logical continuation of the minimalism of her Trilogy, published in book form in 2017 (...)

The current works, too, are quiet images that derive their incisiveness from reduction. In times of seclusion, when a radiant blue spring sky arcs undaunted over Berlin, Jessica Backhaus has turned her attention once again to her cut outs. With a singular relish for experimentation and guided by intuition and keen powers of observation, she overlaps colored shapes cut out in various sizes from transparent paper and arranges them in rich contrasts against a monochrome background. In the heat of the sun, the compositions gradually take on a life of their own: The flimsy pieces rear up, cast shadows, and change shape — creating an organically chang-

ing dance of forms. Two-dimensional cut outs mutate into unpredictable object-like structures, the colors and materiality of which diffuse in the sunlight. Things formerly hidden take shape before our eyes.

Jessica Backhaus (b. 1970) is considered as one of the most distinguished voices in contemporary photography in Germany today. Her work has been exhibited internationally in numerous solo and group shows, e.g. at the National Portrait Gallery, London, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin and MARTA Herford. In 2013, the Kunsthalle in Erfurt dedicated a large-scale museum exhibition to Jessica Backhaus. Backhaus' works also have their permanent place in important collections, e.g. the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Margulies Collection, Miami, the Art Collection of the Taunus Sparkasse, Bad Homburg, the Art Collection Deutsche Börse, Frankfurt and the ING Art Collection, Brussels. With *cut outs* she presents her eighth publication with Kehrer Verlag.
www.jessicabackhaus.com

Exhibitions

Galerie Anja Knoess, Cologne, 07.05.–12.06.2021
 Photo Basel, Robert Morat Galerie, Basel, 2021
 The Eye Sees, Robert Morat Galerie, Arles, 2021
 Photo London, Robert Morat Galerie, London, 2021
 Paris Photo, Robert Morat Galerie, Paris, 2021
 Robert Morat Galerie Berlin, 2022

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