

NEW RELEASE

Christian Helmle Stralau

Edited by Kunstmuseum Thun and Helen Hirsch

Texts by Helen Hirsch, Alisa Klay, Konrad Tobler

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The comprehensive publication on the occasion of his solo exhibition shows not only new but also older and rarely seen artistic works of the Swiss photographer Christian Helmle

The exhibition catalog *Stralau* takes the viewer on a voyage of discovery through the oeuvre of the Thun-based photographer Christian Helmle. In his photographs, Helmle deals with themes such as nature, architecture, and humans, whereby structures and topographies also appear time and again in his expressive works.

The photos are accompanied by a foreword by Helen Hirsch, Director of the Kunstmuseum Thun, as well as contributions by Konrad Tobler and Alisa Klay. While Tobler's essay examines the tectonics and dynamics in Helmle's photographs, Klay explores the photographer's latest series of works as well as people in the urban social environment.

The catalog is published on the occasion of the eponymous exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Thun and offers viewers a comprehensive insight into the artistic work of Christian Helmle.

From the **foreword by Helen Hirsch**, Director of the Kunstmuseum Thun:

Christian Helmle is passionate about being a photographer. No efforts are too great and no mountain is too high to climb for him to get his special landscape shots 'in the can'. However, his fascination for historical and modern architecture also propels him to the world's remotest locations, from where he takes away fantastic images.

We met in his studio in the Atelierhaus in Thun on several occasions during preparations for the exhibition, Stralau. Fascinated by his expansive pictorial world, we then very quickly became immersed in Helmle's stories and universe. With Stralau, we embark on a mental journey, wondering what locality or landscape this is:

the eponymous work depicts a façade on the Stralau peninsula in the heart of Berlin, in Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg. Helmle was out and about at this location shaped by history, bringing to life the decayed industrial waste sites and detecting traces of the former fishing village.

Christian Helmle (born 1952 in Thun, Switzerland) grew up in Thun. He studied ethnology at the University of Bern from 1972 through 1973 before dropping out to travel Central America and Africa. From 1977 through 1980, Helmle completed the photography class at the École supérieure d'arts appliqués in Vevey. He has been working as a freelance photographer since 1982. Helmle has been awarded numerous distinctions and fellowships, including the Eidgenössisches Stipendium (1987), the Atelierstipendium Kairo (1993), the Kulturpreis der Stadt Thun, das Werkstipendium Tunis (2000), the Atelierstipendium Berlin (2005), and the Fotopreis des Kantons Bern (2006). His works are represented in major collections and have been on show in numerous exhibitions in Switzerland and abroad.

In addition to the present book, the following publications on Christian Helmle's works have appeared: *Selve* (2017); *Thunersee* (2016); *Waterpower* (2012); *Weisse Elefanten / White Elephants* (2007); *Zum Beispiel Thun* (2003); *Karrenfeld* (2000).

Exhibition

Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland

12.02.–01.05.2022

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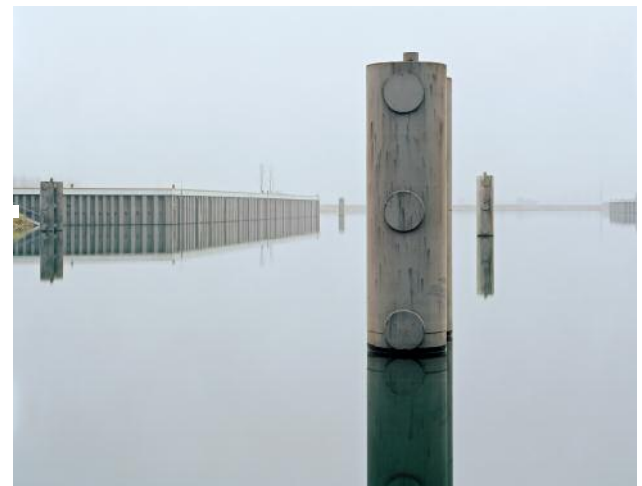
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