

NEW RELEASE 2023



Michael Goldgruber
FRACTURE ZONES
*Modulations in the Alpine world
 in the age of the climate crisis*

Texts by Sophie Haslinger, Astrid Kury, Lisa Ortner-Kreil
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**Pictures of terrible beauty and testimony of a search for applicable images of nature
 at the beginning of the 21st century**

It is a known fact that manmade climate change is especially prominent in alpine topography. The Austrian photographer Michael Goldgruber examines the marginal parts of glacier, snow, and rock zones with a critical eye.

From the Preface by **Sophie Haslinger**:

Goldgruber's photographic works show sections of these landscapes that reflect a human dilemma – the longing for romantic landscape images on the one hand, and the reality of the countryside as altered by human activity on the other.

(...) Unlike classic landscape panoramas with their idealized images of nature, in Goldgruber's works there is often no horizon, the proportions and scale remain unclear, the ice and rock formations fill the picture completely. The alpine world becomes an actor in its own right – it crumbles, melts, transforms.

From the Text *Terrible Beauty* **Lisa Ortner-Kreil**:

In an age when awareness of climate change is, albeit slowly, gaining more and more ground, every image of a landscape is also a political statement, and this is precisely what Michael Goldgruber's images are, too.

(...) "As regards our collective understanding of landscape pathetic images of 'home', whose principal aim is to prove the intactness of nature and which ignore the difficulties to which the landscape is exposed are a huge problem," says Michael Goldgruber.

Michael Goldgruber was born in 1965 in Austria, he lives and works in Vienna/Austria and Etmissl (a small village in the Austrian alps). Trained as a photographer in the late 1980s, he has also studied History of Art and Philosophy at the University of Vienna and has been an extramural Student at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. He has received some scholarships and residencies, amongst others 2012 at the Cité des Arts in Paris and 2015 at the Contretype (Centre d'Art contemporain pour la Photographie à Bruxelles) in Brussels. 2007 he was awarded with the Austrian state-scholarship for visual arts and in 2015 with an international prize for art-photography – „La Quatrième Image“ – in Paris. He has done various international solo shows between 1988 and 2017 and contributed in various international group shows, a.o. in Vienna, Graz, Linz, Berlin, Stuttgart, Zurich, Paris, Mexico City, Santiago de Chile, Havana, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Shanghai, Zagreb, Athens, Bologna.

Exhibitions

Sehsaal, Vienna, Austria
 31. October - 18. November 2023

Book presentation as a part of Vienna Art Week
 16. November 2023

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