



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Gregor Sailer The Potemkin Village

Texts by Judith Lehner, Linde B. Lehtinen, Walter Moser

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The absurd world of fakes, copies and stage sets in the services of politics and economy in Europe, USA, China and Russia

According to legend, the phrase »Potemkin village« can be traced back to the Russian field marshal Prince Grigory Aleksandrovich Potemkin. In 1787, the minion of Catherine the Great purportedly had entire villages erected as painted façades along the paths of her travels to the recently conquered Crimean territory in an effort to veil the true, run-down face of the region.

Following *Closed Cities* (Kehrer 2012), Gregor Sailer's new project once again presents actual architectural manifestations driven by political, military, and economic motives: combat training centers in the USA and Europe, faithful replicas of European cities in China, and vehicle test cities in Sweden. And finally, a classical Potemkin village in Russia, where, on the occasion of a visit by Vladimir Putin to Suzdal on the Golden Ring and a triple summit in the city of Ufa, whole streets were masked with adhesive foil, wallpaper, and tarpaulins in an effort to provide the abandoned buildings with a feigned sense of activity. Sailer's pictures give the viewer access to the world of fakes, copies, and stage sets and call these at times absurd aberrations of our contemporary society into question.

»Gregor Sailer makes work that challenges our understanding of what it means to encounter authenticity and illusion within photography.«

– from the text by Linde B. Lehtinen

Gregor Sailer (b. 1980 in Schwaz, Tirol) works as a free photographer and designer. His work has been exhibited and published internationally. Collections: Fotomuseum Winterthur, Albertina, Sammlung Republik Österreich, Ferdinandeum, Sammlung Land Tirol, Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Belvedere Museum Vienna, Museum der Moderne Salzburg.

Walter Moser is Curator for photography at Albertina Vienna.

Linde B. Lehtinen is Assistant Curator of Photography at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA).

Judith Lehner studied architecture at the Vienna University of Technology, the Universidad de Sevilla and the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Exhibitions

Does Permanence matter?

Ephemeral Urbanism: Cities in Constant Flux

Architekturmuseum der TU München | Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, 14.09.2017 – 07.01.2018

Krasnoyarsk Biennale of Contemporary Art, Russia
from Oktober 2017

FO.KU.S Foto Kunst, Stadtforum, Innsbruck
15.11.2017 – 20.01.2018

Kehrer Galerie, Berlin, Summer 2018

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