

NEW RELEASE 2025

Zak van Biljon *Modernising Nature*

Texts by Gwendolyn Fässler, Lukas Tonetto

Designed by Max Quecke

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Making invisible energies visible: infrared photography of the Swiss Alps

The Swiss-based photographer Zak van Biljon goes beyond the visible spectrum to open up a new, fascinating view of nature's wonders. In *Modernising Nature*, he uses the technique of near-infrared photography, originally developed for military and agricultural applications. This method allows him to capture the invisible energy reflected by vegetation, unveiling aspects of the natural world that lie hidden to the human eye. The result is a series of mesmerizing images that glow in electric pinks, deep reds, and vibrant violets—an unexpected, otherworldly palette that challenges our ingrained expectations of landscape photography.

What might initially appear as digital manipulation is, in fact, a faithful rendering of a “hidden” spectrum. Instead of the lush greens and earthy browns we associate with forests and alpine meadows, van Biljon presents luminous red mountain slopes and fluorescent fuchsia valleys. These altered hues create a moment of disorientation, only to draw the viewer in with magnetic force. As the introduction to the book by Gwendolyn Fässler notes, “*like moths drawn to the bright flickering of a flame, we immerse ourselves in the seductively radiant scenes of Modernising Nature.*” This magnetic pull invites not only visual wonder but also deeper reflection.

The power of van Biljon's work lies in its ability to both seduce and unsettle. In an era marked by digital saturation and growing environmental alienation, his images act as visual catalysts, urging us to look again—more attentively, more curiously—at the world around us. With *Modernising Nature*, he offers not just a new aesthetic language for depicting landscapes, but a renewed call to reconnect with the essential vitality of nature,

stripped of nostalgic clichés and free from the artificial filters of modern life.

Zak van Biljon is a landscape and fine art photographer, born in South Africa and currently based in Switzerland. He studied at the Cape Town School of Photography and the National College of Photography, and later expanded his artistic perspective with a course at MoMA in New York. His work is driven by a passion for capturing the energy, beauty, and contradictions of nature, often through the lens of infrared photography.

Van Biljon is known for his technical precision and for exploring the complex relationship between humans and the environment. His photographs are celebrated for their visual impact, formal elegance, and conceptual depth. Through a unique use of color and technique, he challenges traditional modes of seeing and invites viewers to experience the landscape with renewed awareness.

More at www.zakvanbiljon.com

Forthcoming Exhibitions

Galerie 94

Baden, Switzerland

28.08. – 11.10.2025

Luisa Catucci Gallery

Berlin, Germany

27.11.2025 – 10.01.2026

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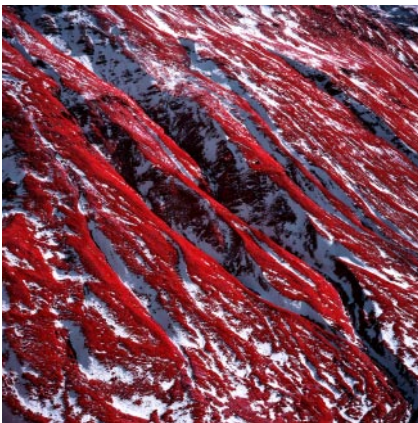
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