

NEW RELEASE

Joachim Richau

FRAGMENT oder die Gegenwart des Zweifels

Texts by Katrin Arrieta, Peter Kruska, Christiane Stahl
Designed by Michael de Maizière

Hardcover with with accompanying insert
22,7 x 33 cm
86 pages
22 color- and 28 b/w illustrations
German / English
ISBN 978-3-86828-780-6
Euro 35,00

Joachim Richau's photos oscillate between figuration and abstraction and are characterised by a painterly effect

Immediately following the fall of the Berlin Wall in the autumn of 1989, Joachim Richau began making regular work stays in Scandinavia. After, in the mid-1990s, he increasingly delved into the landscape and its inherent structure, from 2000 onwards he focused exclusively on this theme for his photographic series and individual images. For more than ten years, Richau had access to a studio in the forest house of friends in Dalarna / Sweden, but nevertheless far away from human inhabitation, to where he retreated for several months each year – also in winter. Included in the group of works titled FRAGMENT oder die Gegenwart des Zweifels (FRAGMENT or the Presence of Doubt) are photos for which the artist repeatedly visited the same stone quarry. Of central importance to these most recent works is the duality between the nearly opaque surface of a multi-layered blanket of snow and the underlying red-brown rock. Nevertheless, the goal here is not the documentation of concrete locations. Instead, the extreme close-ups of ice surfaces or walls of stone reach a level of abstraction which remove the respective motif from any temporal and spatial context.

Joachim Richau (*1952) lives in Berlin and in the Uckermark. Since the early 2000s, his pictures have been created predominantly during numerous months-long sojourns in Sweden, where, from 2005 to 2016, he also had a studio in the forest cabin of his friend Sten Olsson. He has presented his multiple award-winning works – often comprising long-term comprehensive work complexes – in numerous exhibitions in Germany and abroad and has published several artist books in cooperation with expose verlag, Berlin.

»An essential characteristic of the photographic work of Joachim Richau is the long-established, close interconnection of his artistic and private biographies. The beginning, middle, and end of the FRAGMENT work complex are also determined by a chronology of existential turning points in his life, which is inherent in these pictures, but only reveals itself when one has knowledge of the respective biographical background.«

Excerpt from the text of Christiane Stahl, Alfred Ehrhardt Stiftung Berlin

»What unites these pictures from the most recent work complex with all earlier works by Joachim Richau is their authenticity – an authenticity that does not lie in objective veracity, but rather in the radically subjective gaze, which the external takes as an opportunity to search for the internal.«

Excerpt from the text of Peter Kruska, Stadtgalerie Kiel

Exhibitions

WERK WANDEL

Stadtgalerie Kiel, 10.06. – 03.09.2017

FRAGMENT oder die Gegenwart des Zweifels

Alfred Ehrhardt Stiftung, Berlin, 15.09. – 23.12.2017

HORIZONT oder die Illusion der Fremde

Brandenburgisches Landesmuseum für moderne Kunst, Cottbus
03.12.2017 – 28.01.2018

WERK WANDEL

Leonhardi-Museum Dresden, June - August 2018

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Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25, Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com www.artbooksheidelberg.com

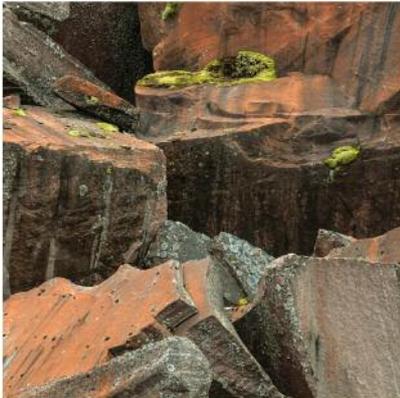
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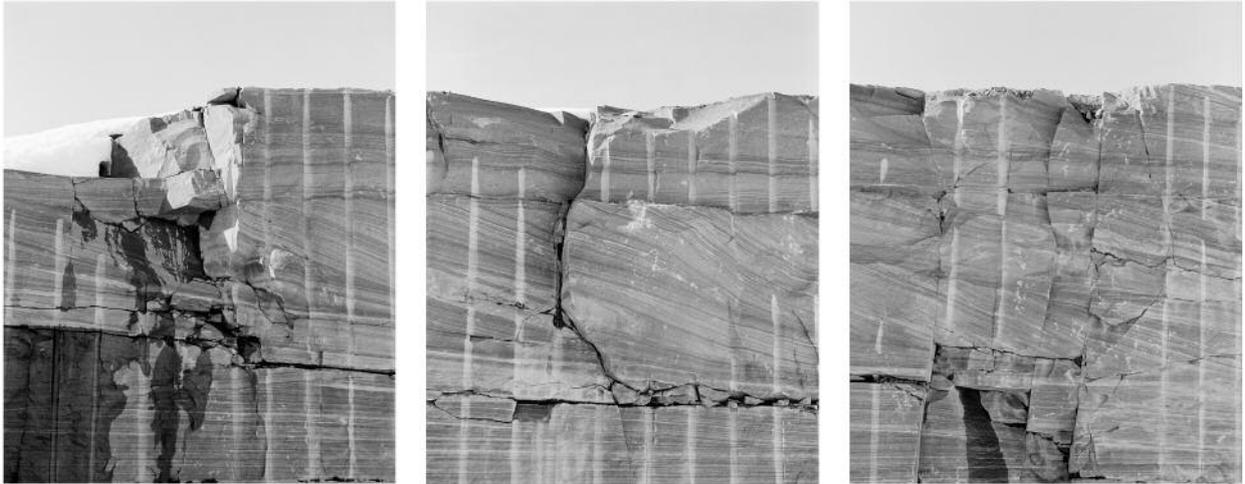
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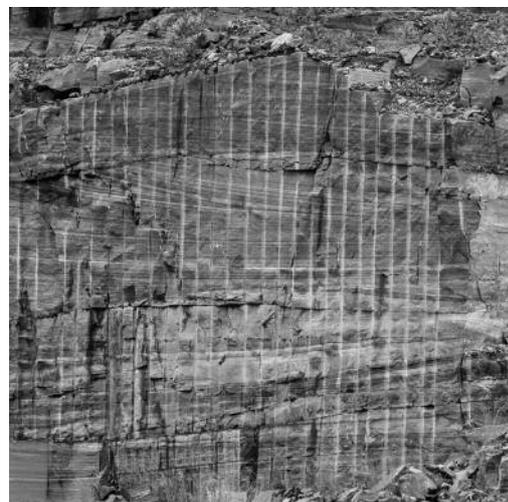
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