

Jessica Backhaus

The nature of things



© Jessica Backhaus, Cactus, 2021, from the series
The nature of things

The photo artist Jessica Backhaus zeroes in on everyday objects and situations in a fascinating interplay of the depiction of reality and an enigmatic level of abstraction. Deploying unusual perspectives and a free play of materials, she creates collages, staged still lifes and minimalist, refined experiments with color and light. The exhibition presents recent works, including as yet unpublished photographs from the new series “The nature of things” (2023) with impressions from her surroundings and nature in intense bursts of color.

Jessica Backhaus’s artistic work is driven by her search for a novel photographic practice that probes the power of abstraction. This is evident in further projects on display: In “Six Degrees of Freedom” (2015), the artist looked back on her roots and significant places of her youth. In doing so, she created photographs that have a universal reach in their luminance and focused stillness. Upon completing “A Trilogy” (2017), an examination of the aesthetics of the everyday, the artist presented a new mode of work with “Cut Outs” (2021). In this series, Backhaus choreographs a dance of light and color performed by vibrant, manually cut out and carefully assembled shapes of tracing paper.

The work of Jessica Backhaus demonstrates the power of shape, color and light and the role of aesthetic contexts. Guided by the principle of formal concentration, the artist undertakes a careful balancing act between reality and abstraction and thereby creates a “space to dream and feel.”

Jessica Backhaus (b. 1970) studied photography and visual communication in Paris. She lived in New York from 1995 to 2009, where she realized her own projects. Backhaus counts among the most important contemporary German photographers. Her work is regularly exhibited in a wide range of countries and is held in collections in Europe and North America. She lives and works in Berlin.

Exhibition duration
20.10. - 17.12.2023

Opening
Introduction
Dr. Christiane Stahl
Art and photo historian
Thursday, 19 October
7 pm

Artist Talk
Moderated by
Julia Rosenbaum
Thursday, 16 November
7 pm

Talk
Artistic Practice and Artist
Friendships with Jessica
Backhaus and Mirjana Vrbaški,
moderated by Barbara Esch
Marowski
Wednesday, 29 November
7 pm

Finissage and guided tour
Exhibition tour with
Jessica Backhaus
and Barbara Esch Marowski
Wednesday, 13 December
7 pm

Address
Grunewaldstraße 6-7
10823 Berlin
Phone 90277-6964
www.hausamkleistpark.de

Free admission
No barrier-free access
Tue-Sun 11am-6pm

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Press photos
Printable images available at:
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hof-Schöneberg. The project is
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© Jessica Backhaus, *Sunrise*, 2022, from the series *The nature of things*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Paper*, 2022, from the series *The nature of things*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Mystery*, 2021, from the series *The nature of things*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Cactus*, 2021, from the series *The nature of things*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Dust*, 2022, from the series *The nature of things*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Feuilles*, 2022, from the series *The nature of things*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Cut Out4*, 2020, from the series *Cut Outs*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Cut Out46*, 2020, from the series *Cut Outs*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Cut Out11*, 2020, from the series *Cut Outs*



© Jessica Backhaus, *You will see*, 2015, from the series *A Trilogy*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Blue Note*, 2015, from the series *A Trilogy*



© Jessica Backhaus, *Alte Liebe*, 2015, from the series *Six degrees of freedom*