

Michael Schäfer

Am besten nichts Neues



© Michael Schäfer, Nr. 15, from the series „2021_57“, 2021-23

In his photographs, Michael Schäfer addresses how we deal with the digital imagery of our present day and age, making them the starting point, subject, and base material of his work. The artist questions the use of images in the spectrum between authenticity and projection, reality and disinformation, and thus points to the power of visual roles and systems. In his photographic montages of found images in the media and his own photographs as well as his stagings, the artist focuses on relevant contemporary issues. In its large exhibition hall, Haus am Kleistpark presents works from recent years drawing from a conceptual understanding of photography that demonstrates the medium's potential for reflection within the realm of art.

For the project “Invasive Links” (2016-2019), Michael Schäfer worked with images from LiveLeak.com, a platform that published uncensored cell phone videos and stills of critical situations. Using motifs from this series, the artist creates an exhibition space comprising large-format photographic wallpapers, a sofa, and a reading corner. He contrasts the noise of the images of crisis with stillness and mounts situations experienced as normal in our society into the images. In doing so, Schäfer examines what kinds of content have inscribed themselves into our imagination through images in the media.

In 2021, Schäfer created 53 picture cubes, one for each week of the year. Each side of the cubes presents different screenshots of crisis situations around the world. The unfolded cubes are mounted on views of the ocean, giving way to a wide range of associations. With this work, the artist poses questions such as: Does the reality behind the images we consume reach us? To what extent do images from the internet appear abstract to us? What role do emotions and generalizations play? These questions and many others can and should be asked in the exhibition, whose title roughly translates to “nothing new, at best.” Numerous other works by the artist will also be on display.

Michael Schäfer studied photography at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Dortmund (FH Dortmund) and the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (HGB Leipzig) with Joachim Brohm. After he received his diploma, he spent an academic year at the Simon Fraser University in Canada. Upon working as an artistic assistant at HGB, he held teaching posts at Hartford Art School in Connecticut, USA, and the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK). His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions. Alongside his own work as an artist, Michael Schäfer runs the exhibition space “Villa Heike” in Berlin.

Exhibition duration
23.3. – 19.5.2024

Opening

Saturday, March 23
6 pm

Introduction

Florian Ebner

Art historian, head of the photography department at the Centre Pompidou, Paris

Book presentation and artist talk

with Michael Schäfer and
Wiebke Loeper (moderation)

Thursday, April 18

7 pm

Guided tour at the end of the exhibition

with Michael Schäfer and
Barbara Esch Marowski

Wednesday, May 15

7 pm

Address

Grunewaldstraße 6–7

10823 Berlin

Phone 90277-6964

www.hausamkleistpark.de

Tue-Sun 11am-6pm

Free admission

No barrier-free access

Press contact

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Press photos

Printable image material at:

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An exhibition of the Department of Art, Culture, Museums Tempelhof-Schöneberg. The project is funded by the KoGa-Fonds.



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© Michael Schäfer, „Invasive Links“ 03, 2017, from the series „Invasive Links“



© Michael Schäfer, „Invasive Links“ 09, 2019, from the series „Invasive Links“



© Michael Schäfer, „Müde“, 2011, from the series „Vorbilder“



© Michael Schäfer, „Die Überlegung“, 2009, from the series „Vorbilder“



© Michael Schäfer, „Breitscheidplatz (Berlin, 19.12.2016)“, 2017, from the series „Nacht“



© Michael Schäfer, „Les Acteurs“ 26, 2007, from the series „Les Acteurs“