ADRIAN SAUER

28.01 – 15.04.2018

Parallel exhibition: **Dorothée Elisa Baumann**

Adrian Sauer, *Parkett*, digital C-Print, 37.5 x 37.5 cm, 2016

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The Photoforum Pasquart is happy to present the solo exhibition of German artist Adrian Sauer, articulated around his research on the foundations of digital photography as a medium, curated by Nadine Wietlisbach.

Adrian Sauer (*1976, lives and works in Leipzig, DE) explores in his photographic work the foundations of a medium that has changed like no other over the last decades. When, during the 1990s, analogue photography was gradually replaced by digital processes, many critics proclaimed the end of photography. Adrian Sauer's work decidedly adopts an opposite stance. For many years, he has addressed in multifaceted ways the attributes of digital photography as a medium. The resulting works are at first sight minimalist, if not cryptic, before they reveal their elegance and, often, their humorous side.

As we look at this individual works, a subtle network of theoretical and applied connections appears in Adrian Sauer's artistic practice. Rethinking the photographic processes, meditating them, pondering them without rigidity: these are key features of his work. In his lecture series *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* (1983-84), Jürgen Habermas emphasised the anchoring of reflection in communication. For him, reflection is not a matter of a cognitive subject referring objectively (pre-linguistically) to itself, but is expanded through layers of discourse and action. Pushed a little further, these considerations lead to the development of computer programmes. In computer language, reflection or introspection means the capacity of a programme to know and alter its own structure. In the exhibition, Adrian Sauer interconnects three main complementary formats: photography as pictorial medium, three-dimensional objects and texts.

The 2010 series **16.777.216 Farben** [16.777.216 colours] offers a minimalist but elegant experience of the spectrum of light. The digital captors of the cameras can today produce 16'777'216 distinct colours. A computer working in an 8-bit environment is limited to this colour environment. Having worked for a long time with software such as Adobe Photoshop, Adrian Sauer saw the evolutions of the interface between user and technology. Relying on this experience, he has developed a software capable of producing images containing each colour just once.

The series **Form und Farbe** [shape and colour], started in 2014, consists of diptychs of photographs of clouds. The variations in the cloud shapes are reminiscent, in their fleetingness, of the photographic medium, while being a classic motif in art history. Adrian Sauer frequently photographs the sky. For this series, he has developed a software that creates a negative and a positive image from the same file, before adjusting their while balance. From these operations are created pairs of twin images.

The series **Parkett** [parquet] astutely demonstrates the capacities of the photographic medium: 36 images continuously reproduce a parquet, which we are used to see from an above position when standing on it. This work invites to think about how objectively representable things can be and about what will, even with the most exact of reproductions, be left out.

The object **Spiegel mit einem Band** [mirror with hinge] is composed of two "wings" whose surfaces are integrally covered with polished steel, and which are linked with a piano hinge. The history of photography, in which the metaphorical attributes abound, becomes here a physical space of experience. As the surfaces are not perfectly flat, the reflections are slightly deformed – the mirror can thus be apprehended as an object. But despite these deformations, the work still acts as a mirror and multiplies the image of the exhibition room, offering a surprising point of view on the architecture of the Photoforum. Its dimensions (90 x 225 cm), are reminiscent of the standard size of a door and can be interpreted as a reference to the human body.

As in the parquet photography series, the issue of reproduction plays a central role in the object parquet work. While part of the Photoforum's floor are made of wood parquet, one of the photographic work features objects of a seemingly similar material, but which are in reality based on photographs of that very material. While the specific photographic techniques for the representation and articulation of the visual reality are on the decline, universal techniques are used for the presentation of a certain visual reality are used: the paradox of the development of photographic representation is here abundantly clear.

In his long-term project **Glossar** [glossary], Adrian Sauer explains the phenomena shaping our digital and visual everyday life. His exploration of concepts such as "sharing" and "deleting", "bot" or "meme," tackles the often difficult to grasp the logic of the contemporary visual culture. His glossary takes various forms, from installations in museal institutions to the public space and publications. The arrangement of the terms is based on the logic of digital structures: a text form that is not linear but follows the structure of a network, allowing for cross-referencing. The glossary is the basis of a publication that prolongs the exhibition.

Biography

Adrian Sauer (*1976, lives and works in Leipzig, DE) studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Leipzig from 1997 to 2003, and from 1999 onwards with Professor Timm Rautert. In 2005, he earned his master's degree, under the direction of Timm Rautert as well. In 2004, he co-founded with other students the producers' gallery Amerika in Berlin. His work has been presented in many solo and group exhibitions, in galleries as well as public institutions, and has received several grants. His work is part of public as well as private collections.
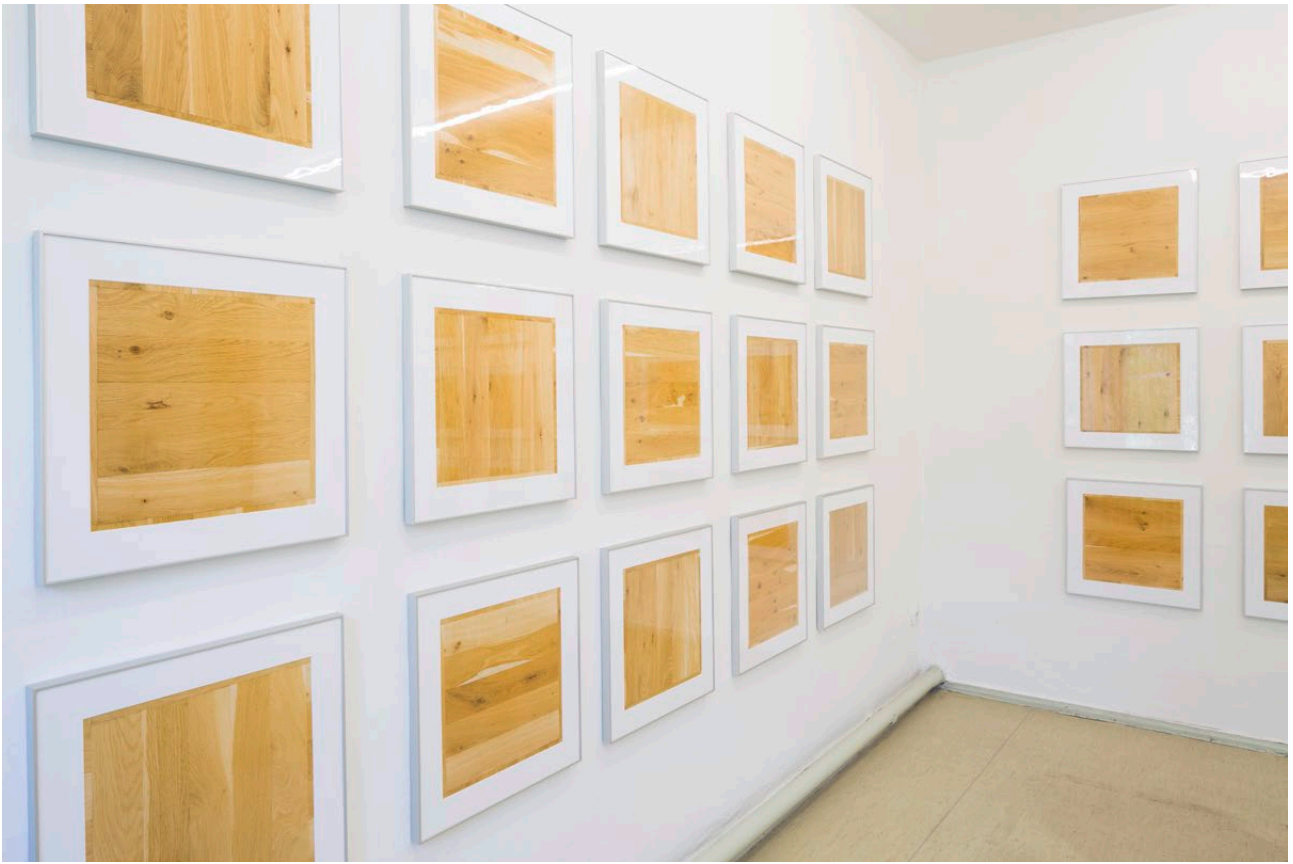
Adrian Sauer, *16777216 Farben in rot, grün und blau*, digital C-Prints, 126 x 191 cm, 2018

Adrian Sauer, *30.06.2015*, 2 digital C-Prints, 121 x 161 cm each, 2015

Adrian Sauer, *Parkett*, 36 digital C-Prints, 37.5 x 37.5 cm each, framed, 2016

Adrian Sauer, prototype for a new work in the *Parkett* series, 2017

Adrian Sauer, *Spiegel mit einem Band*, 3 pieces , polished stainless steel, wood, piano hinge, each wing 225 x 90 x 2.5 cm, 2015

Useful information

Exhibitions	Dorothée Elisa Baumann Adrian Sauer
Public opening	Saturday 27 January 2018 from 17.00
Dates	28.01 – 15.04.2018
Hours	Wednesdy 12.00–18.00 Thursday 12.00 – 20.00 Friday 12.00–18.00 Saturday/Sunday 11.00–18.00 Monday/Tuesday closed
Address	Seevorstadt 71 2502 Biel
Contact	info@photoforumpasquart.ch +41 22 322 44 82 www.photoforumpasquart.ch

Media information

Press conference	Friday 26 January 2018 at 10.30
Media contact	Danaé Panchaud Director dpanchaud@photoforumpasquart.ch +41 32 322 82 44 / +41 78 723 61 07
Visuals HD	www.photoforumpasquart.ch/presse Password: Presse2018