

# Rudolf Steiner: Ricochet

19.9. – 22.11.2020



## Media contact

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## Ricochet

*Ricochet* is the first exhibition of the long-term project by the Biel-based artist Rudolf Steiner. Initiated in 2013, this project encompasses several hundred photographic landscapes taken in the area of Biel and Roud-châtel, near the author's studio.

There is a strange and fascinating beauty in these images, which appear simultaneously familiar and puzzling. Their photographic precision is challenged by unexpected patterns, textures and inconsistencies. We can guess that they are created through to the camera and the process of shooting, but their nature is not immediately decipherable. In addition to his formal research, Rudolf Steiner is offering with *Ricochet* a reflection on the role of art and the representation of landscape in the current context of the profound climatic upheavals that are affecting our environment on a global scale. Although landscape photography can be perceived a priori as a neutral form of expression, concerned above all with the beauty of a given territory, it is nevertheless almost always revealing of the relationship between man and his environment, of the ideals and fantasies that he harbours towards nature, and finally of the image that a society forms of itself. At the time of the Industrial Revolution, for example, artists were depicting grandiose and immaculate landscapes, when nature was undergoing brutal transformations due to the frenzy of human activity.

*Ricochet*'s photographs are made using a photographic robot that generates several dozen contiguous shots before assembling them by computer. Used in this particular way, this method of making images sees errors accumulate since, during the 10 to 30 minute shoot, the light and weather conditions change and generate visual aberrations. They symbolically echo the transformations inflicted by man on the landscape, and the loss of human control over these phenomena. Rudolf Steiner's landscapes are both disconcerting and visually very attractive. In a subtle way, they invite the viewer to reflect on man's imprint on the landscape, which is becoming ever more striking at a time when human activities are now profoundly transforming the climate.

The title of the series echoes ancient understandings of the mechanism of vision, in which the eye was thought to emit a visual ray that scanned the visible world in a manner similar to *Ricochet*'s method of shooting.

## Artist statement

« Art frequently has been concerned with what we call today 'ecology' since the beginnings of industrialisation, when art movements such as the Hudson River School in the United States (1820s to 1870s) and Romanticism in Europe (1800s to 1890s) mythologised the natural landscape, which was then actively threatened and destroyed by the rapid growth of urban capitalism. The mythology of Romanticism, with its sentimental quest for unspoiled nature, embodies post-war outdated ways of thinking that attempt to push back the boundaries between humans and the ecosystems in which they are embedded. These idealised representations set out to revive an image of purity that had already been lost. Just like the concept of the sublime was born in response to an impressive nature, its opposite, our grasp on the environment, began to solidify and forms the basis of the global confrontation we face today. Given the current climate crisis, the fiction of nature as the ultimate truth is both attractive and harmful. However, at the best of times, art can give shape and weight to the structural forces of catastrophe, which are usually so great as to be unimaginable – it gives emotional power to uncomfortable truths that we prefer not to visualise. »

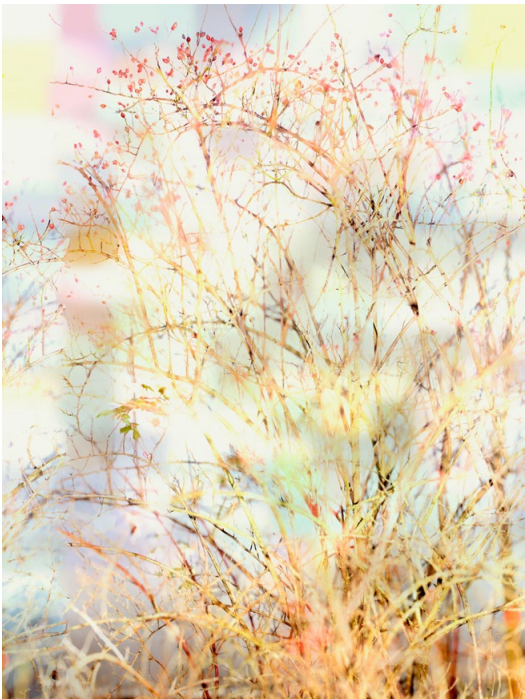
## Event & publication

A talk with Rudolf Steiner and Johannes Binotto, researcher in the fields of media and culture, accompany the exhibition.

In March 2020, Vexer Verlag published Rudolf Steiner's photobook of the same name, edited by the Canton of Bern as Werkbuch/oeuvre d'art.













## Events

Opening day

Free admission and drinks

Saturday 19 September 2020 from 11.00 to 16.00

Talk with Roger Eberhard at 16.00 (in German)

Talk with Rudolf Steiner at 17.00 (in German)

Talk with Rudolf Steiner and Johannes Binotto, researcher in the fields of media and culture

Thursday 29 October 2020 at 18.30 (in German)

Guided tours

FR 24 September at 18.30

DE 1 October at 18.30

DE 22 October at 18.30

DE 8 November at 16.00

FR 19 November at 18.30

## Useful information

Title	Rudolf Steiner. Ricochet
Parallel exhibition	Roger Eberhard. Human Territoriality
Dates	19.9. – 22.11.2020
Venue	Photoforum Pasquart
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