

KATZ CONTEMPORARY

**TOUR D'HORIZON
- LANDSCAPES**

22 March - 18 May 2013

Opening: Thursday, 21 March 2013, 6 - 8 pm

KATZ CONTEMPORARY gallery is delighted to invite the audience on a trip through different landscapes in its new exhibition *TOUR D'HORIZON - LANDSCAPES*. The intention is to crack the observation horizon and emphasize the autonomy of contemporary landscape depiction in photography and painting.

Nobuyoshi Araki's (*1940, Minowa, Tokyo, lives and works in Tokyo, Japan) views of Tokyo from his "Private Photography" series serve as an homage to the city: We see cityscapes of the artist's own emotions - often subconsciously hidden spaces, eagerly photographed and documenting the everyday aesthetics of today's metropolis. Contrary to the shots of the mega city, **Balthasar Burkhard's** (1944-2010, Berne, Switzerland) photographs seem to be images of nature, through which the viewer is inevitably reminded of the simple beauty of the Old Masters' paintings. 19th century painting, literature and old postcards inspire **Elger Esser's** (*1967, Stuttgart, lives and works in Düsseldorf, Germany) large format photographs of landscapes and places. His choice of motives and composition schemes testify the artist's inclination towards this era - his works show unaltered, ephemeral and almost romantic sceneries. In her works from the "LS" series, **Beate Gütschow** (*1970, Mainz, lives and works in Berlin, Germany) reconstructs 17th and 18th century landscape paintings through photography. Like Balthasar Burkhard, she falls back onto an image repertoire which has been developed long before the inauguration of photography. Through digital picture processing technology, Gütschow creates images out of up to 150 single pictures following the design principles of the ideal landscape. Similarly, **Jörg Sasse** (*1962, Bad Salzflen, lives and works in Berlin, Germany) creates his photographs through a collaging process on the computer. He alters single elements, such as the image detail, perspective, colour or sharpness of found photographs. In such manner, Sasse creates works whose origin is often undetectable. The artist plays with reality, confusing the viewer when observing Sasse's constructed objectivity. Through a minimal range of colours, **Melissa Gordon** (*1981, Boston, USA, lives and works in London, Great Britain) creates an effect of partial blur which is captivating: In her piece "Finding Laura Palmer", new landscapes emerge which enable the viewer to observe new visual constellations over and over again. Originally a graffiti artist, **KBOCO** (*1978, Goiana, Goiás, Brazil, lives and works in Sao Paulo, Brazil) has an entirely different approach: He catches the audience's attention through geometric shapes and coloured schemes which he merges into a collage. The harmonious systems of circles and lines can be found on many facades of Brazilian cities, turning KBOCO's work into cityscape images on canvas. **Jean-Frédéric Schnyder** (*1945, Basel, lives and works in Zug, Switzerland) used to work in the realms of realism, symbolism and abstract colourfield painting, which can be observed beautifully in his piece "Bielersee". Through the visual near-mergence of sky and water, the viewer is practically drawn into Schnyder's landscape, in which the artist has captured a powerful scenic moment.

The audience discovers different, mostly photographic, autonomous views of landscapes - details of the human environment or visible nature - guided by several artists and two different techniques. Every single depiction of a landscape captures a certain detail of a view, each bearing its own individual emotions. This enables the recipient to experience the specific atmosphere of each image as well as to perceive the character of the entire exhibition as a panorama.

Raphaella Arnold

CARTE BLANCHE - Patrick Cipriani, Pierre Kellenberger, Sebastian Stadler

With the opening of the new show KATZ CONTEMPORARY is also launching a new exhibition format. *CARTE BLANCHE* is the name of a string of exhibitions that will be shown in the downstairs section of the gallery, featuring different guest artists and -curators.

Photographic works by Patrick Cipriani, Pierre Kellenberger and Sebastian Stadler mark the beginning of this new format. The three Zurich based photographers all focus on the cityscape and its environment, while each artist finds his own visual language: Patrick Cipriani photographs everyday objects which he takes out of their familiar contexts and intertwines into a narrative on a large tableau. Sebastian Stadler carefully observes his surroundings and discovers grace in unlikely places. The artist thus surprises the viewer with unexpected beauty in simplicity. Pierre Kellenberger's "Hecke" ("hedge") series is a precise documentation of a topic that often initially gets overlooked. It quickly becomes evident, however, that the photographs reveal quite a humorous take on the human creative drive in forming urban nature. This first CARTE BLANCHE is curated by Sarah Wiesendanger.

For image requests and further information, please contact the gallery:
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LONG GALLERY NIGHT

Friday, 12 April 2013, 6 - 11pm