

HOLGER SCHMIDHUBER
marilyn



21 May – 11 July 2015

Opening: Wednesday, 20 May, 7 p.m.

The work of Holger Schmidhuber, born in 1970, has been dedicated for years to cultural icons of common use, including their multi-layered and ambivalent impact. He prefers to elaborate on classical and familiar subjects – as the forest (conscious of the “Deutsche Wald” and its cultural connotations), the landscape in general and urban sights. In addition Schmidhuber is devoted to socially critical themes as is portrayed in the series, “Death Row” concerning prisoners in the United States condemned to death (2006) or with the work entitled “Oświęcim Album” (2012) in reference to his personal visit at Auschwitz.

Schmidhuber began his artistic career with an abstract and conceptual painterly position. By introducing photography, his recent work reflects an interaction and overlapping of different media, the purpose being to obscure the object and uncover it at the same time. In addition, the conceptual touch is sometimes preserved by contrasting writings in relation to the picture. But in the centre of all his research the dialogue between contradictory levels remain, on the one hand the real concrete photographic resource and on the other the new layer created by a coat of pigments. It is on the Internet or through personal documentation that Schmidhuber finds his basic materials. During one of his journeys in cyberspace he discovered an official photo taken by the police, in Brentwood, Los Angeles, of the deceased Marilyn Monroe. It was this photo, no reminder of her beauty or sex appeal, instead simply an image of sad facts that captured the curiosity of Schmidhuber. Marilyn is now the protagonist of his new series and for the first time being exhibited in our gallery.

The artist is less interested in an endless and continuous production and reproduction of images. It is in their re-reading and re-interpretation, in the penetration of existing icons, which offer our imagination a new perception between illusion and truth. With the application of high-reflecting and organic pigments, containing glass powder, rendering the surface mysterious and dazzling, his own view of things is placed upon the “objet trouvés”. An intriguing alliance, a provocative conspiracy is born between all of his instruments from colour to photo, keeping our impression, our perspective in abeyance. Only after attentive study can we begin to realize the true subject. Simultaneously Schmidhuber removes and reveals his opposite, taking us to an intermediate world, suggesting the presence of past and contemporary on one platform. With dense atmosphere and knowledge of transience he creates work that is absolutely challenging. It is Marilyn Monroe as a modern expression of „memento mori“.



o.T. (BRENTWOOD), 2015
143 x 190 cm
mixed media on Alu-Dibond



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VITA

1970
born in Bad Mergentheim, Baden Württemberg

2013
Artist In Residence 'CCA Andratx', Mallorca

seit 2010
Professorship at the Hochschule Mainz für Zeitbasierte Medien

2009
Grant and residency at SÍM · The Association of Icelandic Visual Artists,
Reykjavik, Island

2008-09
Contracted teacher at the University of Bozen, Faculty for Design and Art

1998
Studies at the „Parsons The New School of Art, Media, and Technology“,
New York

1996
Grant and residency in Israel, by the Hochschule RheinMain

1995
Grant Meisterklasse Markus Lüpertz, Kloster Irrsee / Allgäu

1994–99
Studies Communication design (Diploma), Hochschule RheinMain, Wiesbaden

Personal shows (selection)

2014
„SCHMIDHUBER & SCHMIDHUBER“ (mit/with Helga Schmidhuber),
Sammlung Teunen, Schloss Johannisberg

2013
„CONVOLUTUM“, DavisKlemmGallery, Wiesbaden

„BAUHAUS CONTROLLED BY NATURE“, SCHAURAUM 35/nullnull, Krems (A)

2011

„SCHMIDHUBER vs SCHMIDHUBER“, Galerie Erhard Witzel, Wiesbaden

2010

„Couples – Paarlauf, Neuer Kunstverein Aschaffenburg

2009

„ARTIST WITH TWO EARS“,

SÍM · The Association of Icelandic Visual Artists, Reykjavik

2008

Grimani & Höhler, Zürich

2007

„DEAD DIARY“, Galerie Carola Weber, Wiesbaden

„Begegnungen. MENSCH... UN MENSCH“, Kunstverein Villa Streccius, Landau

KIAF, Korea/Seoul (One-Man-Show, Galerie Carola Weber)

2006

Galerie Oezmen, Zürich

KIAF, Korea/Seoul (One-Man-Show, Galerie Carola Weber)

2005

Galerie Kleines Haus, Staatstheater Mainz

Kunsthhaus Worms

„unsehbar – Neue Arbeiten“, Galerie Carola Weber, Wiesbaden

2004

Lufthansa Systems Group, Frankfurt

2003

Kunstverein Eisenturm Mainz

Deutsche Bank, Wiesbaden

Galerie Carola Weber, Wiesbaden

2001

Galerie im Kleinen Haus, Staatstheater, Mainz

1998

WLZ Raiffeisen AG, Stuttgart

1996

Städtische Galerie, Freudenberg

Siemens, Erlangen

Works in public collections (selection):

Sammlung Würth, Museum Würth
Amtshausgalerie der Stadt Freudenberg
Siemens, Erlangen
Deutsche Bank, Wiesbaden
Laufener Bank
WLZ Raiffeisen AG, Stuttgart
P.S. 1 · Museum of Modern Art, NY
Lufthansa Systems Group
Abbott Pharmaceuticals, Germany
Sammlung Teunen, Schloss Johannisberg
CCA – Andratx, Mallorca (ES)