

CANDIDA HÖFER

The Space, the Detail, the Image

21.01 – 16.04.2016

Candida Höfer (Eberswalde, Germany 1944) presents her solo exhibition *The Space, the Detail, the Image* at Galería Helga de Alvear. Her work—along with those of Andreas Gursky, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff and Thomas Struth—is set within the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf tradition and influenced by the teachings of Bernd and Hilla Becher.

This exhibition presents large format series of library interiors, along with alleys and corridors of Austrian Benedictine abbeys and monasteries, along with an image from Landestheater Linz. The absence of the human figure means a greater focus on architecture. The apparent sobriety of the images hides a complex interpretation of architecture in relation to its current use and function. For the first time in her career and coinciding with the exhibition, two projections of photographs taken on the Madrid – Cáceres route will be shown. The exhibition puts together large formats, small ones (more abstract and focused on detail) and projections, all three under the common denominator of image.

In the 70s, she spent time photographing Turkish immigrants in Germany, bringing the community's private realm to the public sphere. In the 80s, she started the series *Räume* (Rooms), still in progress, focusing on library interiors, museums, concert halls and palaces as well as other commanding spaces. In the 90s, her series *Zoologische Gärten* (Zoological Gardens) portrayed animals as prisoners in architectural spaces that are generally inhabited by humans. In 2001 the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Calais, commissioned her to photograph the twelve figures in the sculpture ensemble "The Burghers of Calais" by Auguste Rodin in their twelve particular settings. In 2002 she took part in Documenta 11 and in 2003 she represented Germany at the Venice Biennale together with Martin Kippenberger.

Candida Höfer initially studied Film at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, with Ole John, and later Photography with Bernd and Hilla Becher. Her solo shows include: Museum Folkwang, Essen (1982), Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn (1984), Hamburger Kunsthalle (1993), Galerie de l'École des Beaux-Arts, Valenciennes (1994), Center of Photography, Universidad de Salamanca (1998), Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago (2000), Kunsthalle Nürnberg (2000), Kunsthalle Bremen (2003), Louvre Museum, Paris (2006) and Kunsthau Hamburg (2007). Her work has been featured in several collective exhibitions, such as: Nachbarschaft, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (1976); *Giovani Artisti Tedeschi*, Center of Contemporary Art in Turin (1995); Ex Libris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris (1998); *Minimalismos: Un Signo de los Tiempos*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2001); Documenta 11 (2002); *Moving Pictures*, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (2003); Venice Biennale (2003). She currently lives and works in Cologne.