

Where documentation becomes interpretation

In its third edition, PhotoBasel offers a multifaceted impression of international photography.



Paintings or photography? The question arises more frequently in the art of photography in Basel. Here Sonja Braas's recording "Plane" from 2016. Photo: Sonja Braas

The light-skinned, pale girl looks concentrated in the half-profile against black background in the camera. The dark blue layered turban on the head is the only color of the arrangement. Hendrik Kerstens's photographic portraits of his daughter Paula deliberately play on the aesthetics of Dutch masters in the 15th and 16th century. The work of the 61-year-old autodidact, presented by the Amsterdamer Flatland Gallery at Photobasel in the Volkshaus, and whose largest formats cost 30,000 euros, are, however, just one example of the diffusion of the boundaries between painting and photography. Of the art fairs that have arisen in the Art Universe are almost omnipresent.

Another example of this is the works by Alessio Delfinos, The gallery VisionQuest 4rosso from Genoa shows in their box. Born in 1976 in the coastal town of Savonna in the Ligurian seaside town of Savonna, the photographer breaks down figures and movements in the series "Rêves" and arranges the individual images in rows or lumps, resulting in the impression of a drawing and inevitably adjusting the association to sketchbooks of classical art painters. Further variants of these boundaries between photographic documentation and artistic interpretation of reality can be found at the booth of the Berlin gallery Springer - be it the aerial photographs of the 62-year-old Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky of industrial landscapes or threatened natural spaces, the overexploitation and civilizing failure in oil-like large-format compositions capture, Be it the snapshots of the former Swiss policeman Arnold Odermatt. He has developed the passion for the artistic photo about the documentary duties of the policeman, and his series in the event of a fire of damaged cars and their melted lamp lenses has the effect of photographed surrealism.

Norio Takasugi, born in 1973 by Susanne Albrecht, is an even more radical approach to photography. For his work "Ivy", the Japanese, who originally studied industrial design and sculpture, used, for example, the photo of a single ivy sheet, which he reproduced x, reproduced and composed in various geometrical arrangements - an almost meditative work, photography actually To the aid of almost installative art.

But there is much more at the fair, which brings together 37 galleries and exhibitors. Here the Zurich gallery Fabian and Claude Walter shows men's works from Jack Pierson to Herb Ritts. The Kahmann Gallery from Amsterdam, among others, is waiting for Stephan Vanfleteren's left-expressive black-and-white photographs of the remains of the National Socialist Atlantic Wall, which are largely looped by the natural forces. The theatrical productions by Fabrice Monteiro are on display at the Mariane Ibrahim Gallery booth in Seattle, USA. To this end, galleries from South America are represented, one from Japan, from Spain and, of course, from France, which traditionally pays tribute to art photography. Among them the Catherine & André Hug Gallery from Paris, which shows not only works by Mona Kuhn known for her body productions, but also a series with self-portraits of Reine Paradis, which reminds of the idea of Cindy Sherman, but something quite different for the gallery owner , She emphasizes.

Photo Basel until 18 June, from 12 to 20 pm. People's House Basel, Rebgasse 12-14