

SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY

Press release - March 2012

Monika Goetz, α minus 1

The exhibition *α minus 1* is the first solo show of Monika Goetz at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY and will be on view until April 14, 2012.

In this exhibition Monika Goetz deals with the subject of concealing the visible and uncovering the unseen. Perception and comprehension, seeing and not seeing are put to the test.

In the porch, the visitor is welcomed to the show by the site-specific installation *Neutral Density*.

The artist has adorned the glass windows of the reception area with filters normally used in filmmaking or photography to alter incident light. Depending on the strength of the neutral grey filters, ranging from -1 to -4, the light entering the gallery space is reduced with varying intensity. The different color fields distort the perception of the glass cube, thus transforming this transition area - separating outside and inside - into a new, discrete object. At the same time the original function of the transition area is emphasized, its significance is multiplied by the new sensory appeal. This work introduces the exhibition *α minus 1* - as a filtered vision of the surrounding area, as a manipulation of the view, both coming in and going out of the exhibition space.

When entering the gallery the viewer is faced by *From A to B*, whose gentle brightness accompanies the visitor further into the show. Black powder chalk has been applied to the white wall with a chalk line, commonly used by bricklayers, to draw exact, straight lines. The varying intensity in the application of the chalk creates sometimes stronger, sometimes subtler lines, obtaining an altogether fragile, poetic drawing on the wall.

The rays of chalk lead the viewer towards the work *Fail Better*.

Whereas *Neutral Density* only partly reduces the light, here the brightness of the five light bulbs has been blocked applying a heat-resistant, opaque varnish spray. In this way the electric bulbs' light has been made entirely

invisible and can only be sensed in the vicinity, through the warmth they emanate.

The following room contains amorphous, indefinable shapes. The three digital prints are in fact film stills of the video shown in the adjoining room. For *Requiem For A Defined Space* (projection, 9 minute loop, no sound) Monika Goetz filmed the inside of a cloud chamber in which the constantly occurring transformation processes of the atomic nuclei are made visible through an oversaturated compound of alcohol and water. The larger, almost figurative shapes develop when the alpha particles split from their nuclear parent; during the so-called 'beta minus decay' a neutron is transformed at the nucleus into a proton, which becomes visible through strip-like formations.

Although not visible by the naked eye, the radioactive emissions made visible in this work are in fact constantly around us.

Monika Goetz' spectacle of constant coming and going, disintegration and regeneration, creation and disappearance, produces an abstract scene of forms without structure, elusive lines and short-lived clouds, to which yet another degree of abstraction is added, through the film still photography. The effluence and emergence is captured in fragments; the ephemeral becomes eternal and at the same time represents a personal view of the artist on an abstract setting.

Text: Ferial Nadja Karrasch

Monika Goetz, born 1968 in Würzburg, graduated in Fine Arts at Kunsthochschule Kassel in 1998. She lives and works in Berlin.

The opening of the show *α minus 1* at SCHWARZ CONTEMPORARY takes place on March 8, 2012 between 6 and 8 pm.

For further information or any inquiries please contact the gallery at anytime via: mail@schwarz-contemporary.com