

KUNSTVEREIN BIELEFELD
PRESSE

Welle 61
33602 Bielefeld

PRESS

Do, Fr, 15:00–19:00
Sa, So, 12:00–19:00
Mo–Mi, nach Vereinbarung

PRESS RELEASE
KUNSTVEREIN BIELEFELD

13.07.2020

THE DIGITAL EXHIBITION – A NEW FORMAT OF THE KUNSTVEREIN BIELEFELD:

*IN THIS LAYERED WORLD,
ALL PERCEPTION IS REAL*

Pete Jiadong Qiang

Rachele Maistrello

Shuang Li

Lin Ke

Sarah Ortmeyer

Gottfried Jäger

Julia Weißenberg

15.05. – 31.08.2020

www.kunstverein-bielefeld.online

In collaboration with I: project space Beijing
and in cooperation with the FH Bielefeld

On its digital exhibition platform www.kunstverein-bielefeld.online, the Kunstverein Bielefeld presents the digital exhibition *In This Layered World, All Perception Is Real* and thus a new format. In collaboration with the I: project space in Beijing, works by the international artists Gottfried Jäger, Shuang Li, Lin Ke, Rachele Maistrello, Sarah Ortmeyer, Pete Jiadong Qiang and an intervention by Julia Weißenberg are displayed. Their works address the contemporary significance of digital image production. Part of the project is the course *Digital Media and Experiment* of the Fachhochschule Bielefeld, the city's University of Applied Sciences. Taking the conditions of online space as their starting point, students have developed their own contributions to the digital platform.

In the contemporary world, it is no longer possible to assess images solely by technical, material or traditional art-historical criteria. Digital images are code and form at one and the same time. They circulate within modifiable dataset configurations and are subject to fundamentally altered modes of production and reception. Within this context, *In This Layered World, All Perception Is Real* addresses the experience which goes along with this entanglement of real and virtual,

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material and imaginary, physical and mental. The invited artists tap the expressive potential of our changing reality, mapping its new image worlds while abandoning any claims to realness, authenticity or originality.

Pete Jiadong Qiangs (*1991 in Xingping, China, lives and works in London) work *Bielefeld.Beijing.Systems* focuses on the specific investigation of virtual and computational architecture. Especially for the project *In This Layered World, All Perception Is Real*, the artist has designed an interactive landscape in which the places Bielefeld and Beijing intertwine. Visitors of the website are invited to navigate into this maximalist space and look for hidden hyperlinks.

Rachele Maistrello (*1986 in Vittorio Veneto) presents, as part of *In This Layered World, All Perception Is Real*, her *Green Diamond* project: Green Diamond (GD) was a company which existed in Beijing from 1995 to mid-1999. GD developed hi-tech technology, which aimed to develop refined microchips called "GD sensors", capable of provoking natural sensations and feelings. The digital project traces the developments of the company as well as the relationship between Li JianPing (李建平) and Gao Yue (高跃), a former factory worker and an acrobat, who significantly helped develop gestures and movements for the GD sensors.

In her work *If Only The Cloud Knows*, Shuang Li (*1990 in Wuyishan, China, lives and works in Yiwu, China) addresses how geo-politics and commerce in the digital era inform ideas of gender and race. In 2018, Shuang Li made her entire collection of text messages and photographs from 2005 to 2015 available online, erasing the files from her private backup storage. The visitors to the website are invited to delete images or texts, in exchange for writing a note to the artist.

Lin Ke (*1984 in Wenzhou, China, lives and works in Hangzhou and Shanghai, China) is an artist of gestures. In his work *Desktop*, the videos make reference to the gestures inherent to swiping a touch screen, clicking with a mouse and other tactile operations used with digital devices. Here, the real and virtual world intertwine: the videos blink at the viewer, gesticulate and create the illusion of being able to interact with files, dance with them or coordinate the pointer of the mouse as it flies over the screen. Lin Ke's performances thus float between the computer's own inside world and the physical outside world, linking the two with his own bodily presence.

Sarah Ortmeyer's (*1980 in Frankfurt am Main) new piece examines the relation between contemporary technology and iconographic representation. As part of Ortmeyer's *Emoji Shadow Series*, her work *O (DIABOLUS-PALMA-OVUM-COR)* conveys highly generic forms into a world of unique representation.

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In 1968, Gottfried Jäger (*1937 in Burg, lives and works in Bielefeld) introduced the concept of *Generative Photography*. Rather than capturing moments of reality, these photographs produce their own realities, or aesthetic conditions, by means of mechanical and chemical manipulation. Jäger created repeatable programs for the photographic screen, which led the way for early generative computer-based art, and then continued to develop alongside this new mode of art. For the exhibition *In This Layered World, All Perception Is Real*, Jäger in collaboration with Denise Albrecht, Marta Beauchamp and Sonja Mense, has, for the first time, transposed his early, rarely-shown *Mirror Montage Images* into the virtual sphere.

A view from far by Julia Weißenberg (*1982 in Bergisch Gladbach, lives and works in Cologne) intervenes in the website by overlaying the contents of the page with pop-up windows. What dynamics are associated with the concept of *home*? To be always on the move, and everywhere at home. Home as a global, flexible, portable means of production. Home comprising a laptop and an internet connection. But why would anyone seek to *alienate* themselves from the idea of a settled home?

Press images for download are available in the press section on www.kunstverein-bielefeld.de

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