VAN DER GRINTEN GALERIE



Bernd Halbherr

Works 2016–2018

07.09.2018–03.11.2018

In his work Bernd Halbherr explores possibilities for a whole new reading of photographic images, i.e. visual information, by translating them into the third or even fourth dimension.

In the case of his photographic spheres the transfer of a "space" onto a spatial body occurs quite literally, with techniques used to apply a 360° photograph to the entire surface area of an orb, transferring a "concave" image, so to speak, to a completely convex body. The result is an inverted mirror image of the room itself, as it would look if a highly reflective sphere were to take the place of the camera. The spheres, an entire space concentrated on their surface, momentarily suggest the presence of a room that is not there (or in which the viewer is not now present). Their beauty as works of sculpture is the result of artistic craft – physical production processes not measured by absolute technical perfection. A rotation procedure, for example, is used to coat the surface of the spheres with synthetic resin so that they appear to be made of glass or porcelain.

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'Between Us', the 2017/2018 series of works on walls, also addresses the endless possibilities of perceiving a specific space, here by introducing an immediate temporal element: the photographic image is combined with a real mirror image, rendering the viewer at once both present and absent. Here too, basic geometrical shapes create a refreshing abstraction that allows a space to be both clearly defined but also very expansive.

The series 'Mourning Mountains' and the video installation 'News' strike a new balance in the tension between abstraction and figuration. Only after intense observation do the small-format landscape sculptures reveal themselves to be war photography from global flashpoints, transferred onto a three-dimensional form. Theses images can be suppressed from consciousness, but they remain present.

This show presents mainly the artist's most recent works, some created especially for the Cologne exhibition.

*Bernd Halbherr (*1964, Ulm) studied with Klaus Rinke at the Academy of Fine Arts in Düsseldorfer from 1992 to 1997, earning a degree from Professor Rinke's master class. Halbherr currently teaches in Sculpture Department at Chung Ang University, Seoul, South Korea. Works by Bernd Halbherr are found in numerous collections, such as: Kunstmuseum im Ehrenhof, Düsseldorf; Sammlung Herman, Karlsruhe; Sammlung Stoschek, Duesseldorf.*