

GALERIE JUDITH ANDREAE

PRESSRELEASE

FELIX CONTZEN – Geologischer Aufschluss Stolpergefahr August 27 until October 08, 2016

GEOLOGISCHER AUFSCHLUSS STOLPERGEFAHR is the first solo exhibition of Felix Contzen at Galerie Judith Andreae. The young artist (born 1981 in Willich), who got his Diploma 2012 at the KHM in Cologne, is now a visiting student in the class of Prof. Marcel Odenbach at Kunstakademie Düsseldorf.

„Felix Contzen works with the artistic media photography and video. His works evolve neither intuitive nor coincidental: Like a scientist Contzen sounds out questionings, that are defined in series. When being observed superficially they seem absurd now and then, however always include an existential moment of knowledge: a cat always lands on its four paws, a jam sandwich however always falls on its covered side according to the adopted law. So what happens, if a cat gets pushed off a table with a jam sandwich on its back? Is it possible to illusory breathe new life into dead birds, which are collected on the outskirts of the highway, by throwing them in the air and photographing them while falling? Of course not. The carcasses in „don't let go“ move like paper cuttings in the air, aesthetically beautiful, but without any sense. The attempt, to bring them back to life, is doomed to failure. Just like the search for nothing, an unaccomplishable mission, which brought Contzen to travel the world, from Norway to Africa in 2011 and 2012. Here however applies the theory, that exactly the failure – besides the experience itself – leads to new (artistic) results; in this case to a series of photographs of the desert, as well as a video, in which Felix Contzen buries himself under sand.

The action of the artist is therefore a significant part of the completed work. Those partly dangerous, partly absurd acts contrast the aesthetic perfection in a strange way, radiated through the photographs of the artist. Lightning strike, waterfalls, night photographs of gasoline fires, forest, desert – the motives indicate, that the human being within the work of Felix Contzen is not being propagated as the mighty crown of the creation. Instead it is more about the presentation of human mortality, when faced with infinite nature. The rare emergence and disappearance of the person of the artist itself in the videos, which play a minor role in quantitative and qualitative comparison with the impressive landscape photographs, can be read as a synonym.“

– JULIA RITTERSKAMP

Felix Contzen introduces new photo- and video graphic works in the exhibition, which deal with the subjects human being and nature. For the artist there is always a failure included in this respect, which is visualized metaphorically in his works. Sometimes with the necessary seriousness, then again set up more amusing and as utopia, the result constantly pursues image aesthetics. In the curational center are the work series *Breaking Collapse* (2012), *don't let go* (2014) and the very new works of this series *Maybe Paradise* (2016).

OPENING: FRIDAY, August 26, 2016 7pm – 9pm

DURATION: August 27 until October 08, 2016

Participation at POSITIONS ART FAIR 2016:

September 15 – 18, 2016 Booth 2.01

Postbahnhof am Ostbahnhof, Straße der Pariser Kommune 8, 10243 Berlin

Galerie Judith Andreae

Paul-Kemp-Str. 7 53173 Bonn

+49 228 934 90881 info@galerie-andreae.de www.galerie-andreae.de

Opening Hours:

Wednesday 10 am – 6 pm

Thursday, Friday 2 pm – 6 pm

Saturday 11 am – 3 pm

and by arrangement under: + 49 173 7008029