

TOM FECHT

Gravity Fields

7 April to 13 May 2017

Vernissage on 6 May, 6.30 p.m.

"Penetrating night is one thing. But to be penetrated by the night is something entirely different, as this entails experiences that are substantially larger and older than we are." (Tom Fecht)

The title of the exhibition – Gravity Fields – alludes to the invisible, physical forces that determine our world and pervade the infinite cosmic space. Human beings feel the physical pull of gravity directly, experiencing the solidity of the body as well as a connexion to the ground and the world through it.

With this first solo exhibition, it is a great pleasure for us to present an insight into Tom Fecht's series of photographic works, which portray the relationship between mankind and the universal forces of nature.

The photographs were taken exclusively during the night with the light of the moon and the stars as a source of light. The different series concentrate on either the movement of the sea (Eclipse, Nocturne, Tide, Gravity Field) or the nocturnal sky (Incertitude, Cosmos), their abstraction enabling each motif to have both an analytical quality and a material one. The human perception of space and proportions is challenged, or rather opened up, as one of the titles already suggests: Incertitude, the incertitude of the look and of seeing.

Centre how you pull yourself
from all, even the airborne
regaining yourself, centre, you strongest.

Standing upright:
like a drink through thirst,
gravity plunges.

But from the sleeping falls,
as from a laden cloud,
abundant rain of heaviness.

("Force of Gravity", Rainer Maria Rilke, 1924)

Tom Fecht's photographs are unique pieces of art.

Museum DKM in Duisburg will be presenting Tom Fecht's solo exhibition Tiefenzeit from 5 May to 3 December 2017. www.dkm.31m.de

TOM FECHT

(*1952 in Frankenberg, DE, lives and works in Bordeaux and Brittany, FR)

Tom Fecht launched his artistic career in 1992 at Jan Hoet's documenta IX. In the late 1990s, he embraced photography as his preferred medium. Since then, he has produced an extensive body of landscape and portrait work. In recent years he became in particular known for his minimalist seascapes and night photography focusing phenomena invisible to the naked eye.

He studied cybernetics, engineering, and art history at Columbia University in New York and Technische Universität Berlin. As a young engineer, Fecht was involved in developing fax machines and computer-based imaging at IBM. In the 1970s, Fecht founded the gallery and publishing company Elefanten Press in Berlin. During the next two decades, Fecht worked as a gallerist, publisher, and editor focused on documentary and artistic photography. Fecht enjoys exploring photography as a tool in art, design, and scientific research; he also teaches at the Royal College of Art and Imperial College in London.

As of 2012 his photographs are limited to one unique vintage print. His work is regularly exhibited at TEFAF Maastricht and has featured in numerous museum exhibitions and collections, including: Neue Nationalgalerie and Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin; Hamburger Kunsthalle, Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn; Royal College of Art, London; Helmhaus Zurich; and MuCEM Marseille.

SOLO SHOWS (selection)

- 2017 Gravity Fields, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE
TiefenZeit, Museum DKM, Duisburg, DE
- 2016 Magic Moments, Château Palmer, Margaux, FR
Prouvé – Takis, Collection François Laffanour, La Patinoire Royale, Brussels, BE
- 2015 Entre 6 & 8, Galerie Saluden, Quimper, FR
Electric Cinema, Colombia Gallery, Monaco, FR
- 2014 Retour de mer, curated by Jean Attali, Musée des Beaux-Arts LAAC, Dunkerque, FR

GROUP SHOWS (selection)

- 2017 TEFAF Maastricht, NL / Laffanour Galerie Downtown, Paris
TEFAF New York, US / Laffanour Galerie Downtown, Paris
Zona Maco, México D.F., MX / Laffanour Galerie Downtown, Paris
- 2016 Prouvé – Takis, Collection François Laffanour, La Patinoire Royale, Brussels, BE
- 2014 Masterpieces, Galerie Downtown, Paris, FR
Magic Divan – A portrait of Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. Installation for "An Ocean of Possibilities" at Noorderlicht Photofestival Groningen, NL and Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF), SGP
The Water Line Video installation for "The Politics and Pleasures of Food", funded by Kulturstiftung des Bundes, ACC Galerie Weimar, DE
- 2013 Surface tension – An accidental meeting of ocean and slaughterhouse (with J. Zissovici), ENSA École nationale d'architecture Malaquais, Galerie J. Callot, Paris, FR
Equilibre - Les Vivres de l'Art / Fondation du Patrimoine, Photo installation in the former slaughterhouse of Bordeaux, FR
- 2009 Ma couleur préférée, Galerie Gisèle Linder, Basel, CH
- 2008 Names and Stones – Cold Square, New installation for the Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE
Fotografie – On Landscape, Galerie Schöneck, Basel, CH
Unstern Sinistre Disastro – 7 Studies on Gravity, ACC Galerie, Weimar, DE
London Confidential – The Chinese Suite, Galerie Mews42 / Vanessa Suchar, London, UK

SETAREH GALLERY

- 2007 All Under One Heaven – The Chinese Suite, Royal College of Art, London, UK
Finis Terrae – Seascapes and Photo-Glasses, Laffanour Galerie Downtown, Paris, FR
Portraiture – The Chinese Suite, Eyestorm Gallery, London, UK
Rendez-Vous – La Nouvelle Athènes. Seascapes, Gallery Vanessa Suchar, Paris, FR
- 2005 Cause and Effect – The Dust of Childhood, Hartwell Gallery/Cornell University, New York, US
- 2004 Transformation – Seascapes, Art Home Gallery, Istanbul, TUR
Silent Images – Photographs and Works on Paper, Ahorn Grieneisen AG, Berlin, DE
Food For Thought: An Evening with Siegfried Zielinski, Performance at V2 Dutch Electronic Art Fair, Rotterdam, NL
- 2003 Torso – Cité des Sciences, Paris, FR
- 2002 Approaching the Unpredictable – Paper Art 8. Milk Skin (Milchhaut), Installation at Leopold Hoesch Museum, Düren, DE
- 2001 En Face – Gisèle Freund photographed by Tom Fecht, Martin Gropius Bau – Werkbund Archiv / Museum der Dinge, Berlin, DE
Sense of Space – Noorderlicht Photofestival, Groningen, NL
- 2000 Kaltes Tor Commission for EXPO 2000, Hanover, DE
- 1992 Names and Stones, Documenta IX, Kassel, DE

MUSEUM AND PRIVAT COLLECTIONS (selection)

Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin, DE | Hamburger Kunsthalle, DE | Helmhaus Zurich, CH | MuCEM Marseille, FR | Allianz Immobilien GmbH, Stuttgart, DE | Benoit Herault (Clos du Léthé), St. Mediers, FR | Christian Langlois-Meurinne, Paris, FR | DKV AG, Berlin and Cologne, DE | Decaux Collection, Paris, FR | Thierry Ehrman (Artprice.com), Lyon, FR | Nicolas Ferretjans, Zurich, CH | Françoise Louis, Liège, FR | Lee Mindel, New York, US | Guy Porré, Bruxelles, BE | Claude Serra, Paris, FR | Shinsegae Corporation Collection, Seoul, KOR | Vanessa Suchar-Marcus, San Francisco, US | Société Financière St. James, Paris, FR | Pierre Thonon, Liège, BE | Eduard Viollier, Basel, CH