

Claus Stolz

Germany

Blue skies, beach weather. Claus Stolz aims his photographic device: directly at the sun. Gigantic lenses concentrate its radiance onto the photographic film: the first delicate blisters, soon more, a fine smoke. A large bubble forms, grows like a balloon, smolders and goes out, collapses as it crackles, the film breaks out of its support, it stinks, white puffs of smoke between the lens and the film, the optical path of the light, the focal point briefly identifiable, the film catches fire, the material is charred and congeals in bizarre forms, flakes of ash fly up ... Yes, the water barrel is filled up and, no, normally the artist does not let things go quite so far. How far he does let them go, though, can be seen here: one-off objects over a yard wide and high enlarged on photo paper or original pieces of film mounted in Plexiglas cases—crystalline formations, chipped, melted, worn-out material forming the finest structures between its edges, like cell cultures grown in a Petri dish ... an unknown cosmos, enigmatically vibrant, like that under the microscope. Science meets art meets alchemy: abstract worlds full of a magnetic power.

Stolz's results are in no way images of the sun, as in the case of astrophotography. No image is made of anything at all; instead, the artist makes use of exposure times long enough to insure that the sunlight eats its way into the photographic film.

The works of Claus Stolz occupy a highly distinctive position within photography. Stolz's works can thus be referred to as "concrete photography", created without recourse to the indirect route of any kind of reproduction.

1963 Born in Mannheim, Germany ◦ 1988–92 Studies at the Free

Art Academy, Mannheim, with Gerd Lind and Rolf Schneider,
living and working in Mannheim

SOLO SHOWS (SELECTION)

- 2014 Kunstverein Trier ◦ Grandel Gallery, Mannheim, Germany
- 2013 SUNLICHT, Kulturpalast Wedding International Berlin,
Germany
- 2012 Zartbitter Kunstverein Viernheim (with Michael Schnabel)
- 2011 photonet gallery, Wiesbaden 2010 Photo Edition Berlin,
Berlin
- 2008 Sonnenbrände, photonet gallery, Wiesbaden
- 2007 Heiter bis wolkig, Peng! raum für kunst, Mannheim ◦
Stop and go, Kunstbetrieb Karlsruhe (with Barbara Hindahl)
- 2004 Künstlerhaus Göttingen
- 2003 photonet gallery, Wiesbaden (with Matthias Mayer) 2001
Nach der Natur, Artothek Wiesbaden
- 2000 Ein Platz an der Sonne, Mannheimer Kunstverein

GROUP SHOWS AND ART FAIR PARTICIPATIONS (SELECTION)

- 2015 photo basel ◦ Light Image and Data Image – Traces of Concrete
Photography, Museum im Kulturspeicher Würzburg ◦
Movement, Energy and Presence - a Challenged Perception ,
Photographs by Sylvia Ballhause, Jürgen Hatzenbühler and
Claus Stolz, Galerie Grandel, Mannheim
- 2014 Kunstverein Gernersheim ◦ A Gram of Light, Museum
Industriekultur, Nürnberg, Germany
- 2013 ART13 London ◦ Prague Photo Festival, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2012 New Editions Photo Edition Berlin, Berlin and Baden-Baden,
Germany ◦ Les Rencontres d'Arles 2012, Arles, France ◦ St'art
2012, Burg Collection, Strasbourg, France
- 2011 Art Karlsruhe ◦ Biel/Bienne Festival of Photography 2011, Biel,

- Switzerland Show me yours, Municipal Gallery Bydgoszcz,
 Poland ◦ Art Karlsruhe Art Karlsruhe ◦ Art Cologne ◦ Hong Kong
 International Art Fair ◦ KIAF Seoul ◦ Photo Edition Berlin ◦
 Lianzhou International Photo Festival, China
- 2007 Peng meets Peng, PENG Mainz Cologne Fine Art ◦ Wunder der
 Prärie, International festival for theatre, performance art,
 dance, fine art
- 2005 7. Internationale Fototage Mannheim/Ludwigshafen, Monat
 der Fotografie im
- 2003-05 Rhein-Neckar-Dreieck, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen ◦ Art
 Bodensee, Dornbirn - 05 KunstKöln ◦ Art Frankfurt
- 2002 Art Frankfurt

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

Light Image and Data Image - Traces of Concrete Photography,
 Museum im Kultur- speicher Würzburg, catalog, ed. by Henrike Holsing
 and Gottfried Jäger, 2015 ◦ Christoph Schaden, Claus Stolz Heliografien
 in: Ein Gramm Licht, Museen der Stadt Nürnberg, catalog, ed. by Ingrid
 Bierer and Matthias Murko, Michael Imhof Verlag, 2014 ◦ HEIST-online
 Microscopic - Claus Stolz, 2014 ◦ contra doc! Issue#2, 2014, Claus Stolz
 Heliographs ◦ Heliographs - Photographs by Claus Stolz, LensCulture,
 2014 ◦ Heliographs, Claus Stolz, contra doc! Issue #5, 2014 ◦ F-STOP
 Magazine, Issue #58, 2013 ◦ PhotoKlassik, Issue 1.2013 ◦ Der Greif,
 Issue #6, 2012 ◦ Rebekka Schraner, Claus Stolz Sunburns, in:
 Biel/Bienne Festival of Photography 2011, catalog published by
 Benteli, Bern, Suisse ◦ Claus Stolz The Sun in: UYW Photography
 Magazine Issue 14, ed. by Heidi Romano and Claudio Severo,
 Melbourne 2011 ◦ Bernd Böhlendorf Zen der Fotografie, in: Peng!
 raum für kunst, Ausstellungen und Performances, catalog, Mannheim
 2008/2009 ◦ Claus Stolz SUNBURNS, catalog, ed. by Klaus
 Kleinschmidt, Kehrer Verlag Heidelberg 2009 ◦ Michael Stoeber, Claus
 Stolz. Heiter bis wolkig, in: Peng! raum für kunst, Ausstellungen und
 Performances, catalog, Mannheim 2006/2007 ◦ Thomas Schirmböck,
 Claus Stolz. Minuten: Sekunden, in: 7. Internationale Fototage

Mannheim/Ludwigshafen, Monat der Fotografie im Rhein-Neckar-Dreieck, catalog, ed. by Das BildForume.V., Mannheim 2005 ◦ Ins Grüne. Fotografische Arbeiten von Claus Stolz / Into The Greenery. Photographic Works by Claus Stolz, catalog, ed. by Martin Stather, Mannheimer Kunstverein, Mannheim 2000

FILMS

Various films on YouTube by Bernd Böhlendorf (Berlin)