

From Invisible to Visible

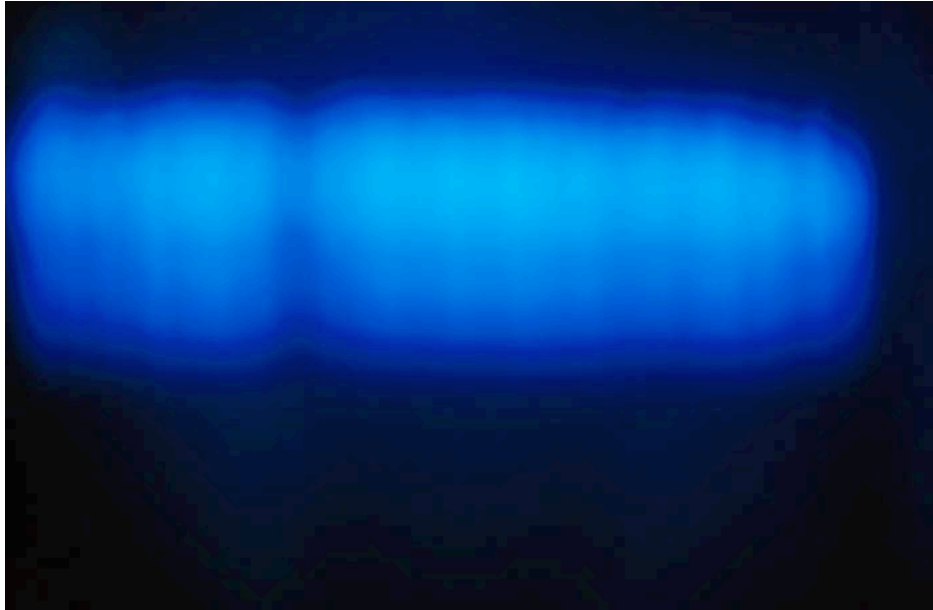
An Encounter with the Photographic Works by Philipp Geist

On first sight the work of Berlin photo-artist Philipp Geist shows a mark of technical procedure that cannot be denied, even under close scrutiny. Nevertheless, his work is more than a mere technical gimmick, but Geist has content at the forefront of his vision. His theme is the appearance of structures that can be ordered into a pattern, or formed into a so-called identity. Geist is not presenting an original copy of the world, but instead creating a world that explains itself with forms and colours. Arrangements are created through these compositions and destroyed in the same way. Colours dissolve forms and at the same time create structures from various shapes.



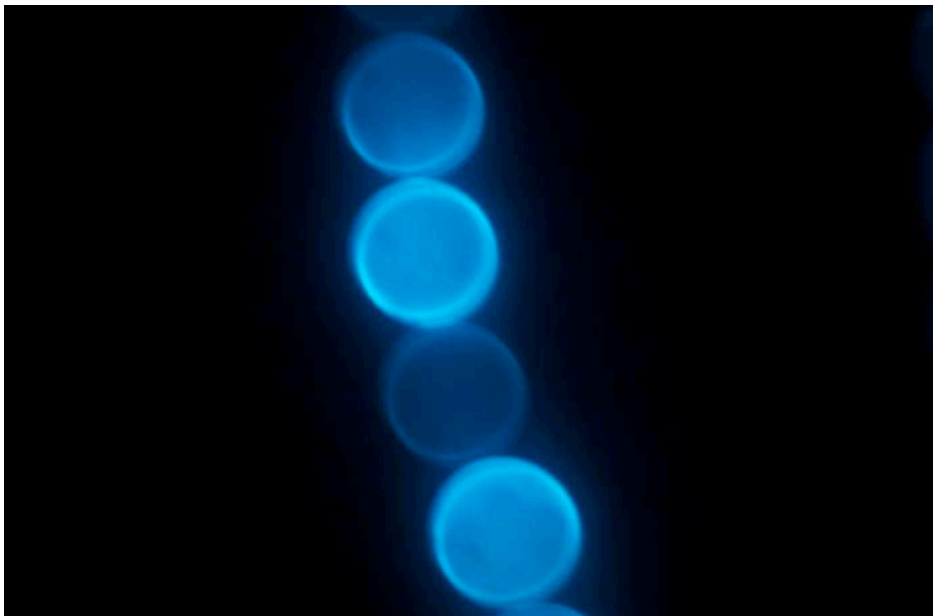
Ohne Titel (P1010896), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 2005

The informal motifs in his photographic works (the expression with colour and form) show thematic connections that can be regarded as the feature of a series. With each picture Geist defines an ontological matter. In avoidance of subject matter, new pictorial associations appear as non-pictorial forms of expression. A keyword to describe Geist's photographs could be origin.



Ohne Titel (362), C-Print Aludibond, 110 x 165 cm, Ed. 3+2AP, 1997

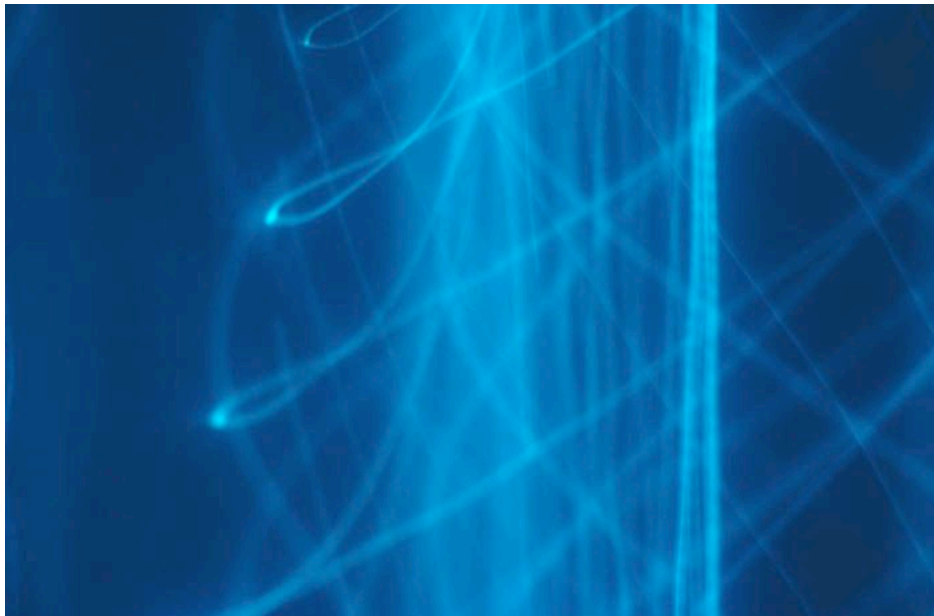
In portraying everyday life, Philipp Geist crosses the boarder between photography and video yet he never shows a photographic reproduction. Instead, the processing methods employed in his photographs suggest a reality of structure and light never seen before. The picture of reality becomes the reality of the image. Only the structure of the original objects creates the “reality of the imagery”. In this respect his works are always motivated by a reflection of the meaning of the image and the artistic work in the society of the media spectacle and defy easy consumption. Geist’s photographic works deal with the movement from the immaterial to the material, from the invisible to the visible.



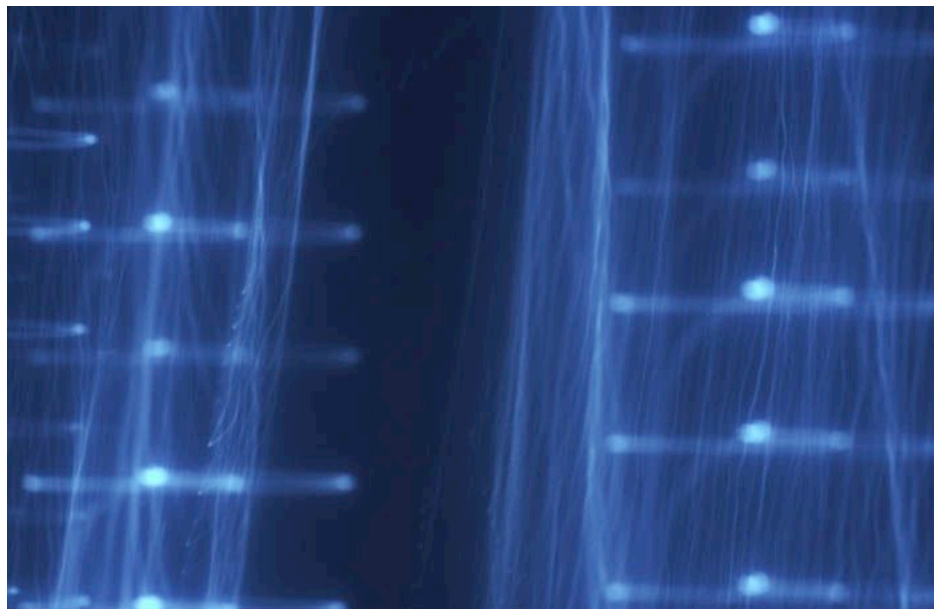
Ohne Titel (04_013), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 2004

Geist makes use of analogue and digital photography. He exploits the whole spectrum of today’s technical possibilities. Nevertheless, it can be said that his imagery works against the apparatus whose principle function is to capture realism whilst still facilitating something like

the aura of the reproducible image. For Philipp Geist art, image and form deal with memory. These images cannot be sharp and clear. They are reproductions; in the way all images are, despite the fact of the never-ending mutability of the digital image. This is where the challenge for Geist lies. Through this challenge he creates in his work an ever increasing fracturing between time and space but at the same time, time and space are meaningless and become displaced.



Ohne Titel (04_077), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 2004



Ohne Titel (04_086), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 2004



Ohne Titel (366), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 1997

The found structures appear like cryptic signs, like animated beings with anthropological roots. Many of his “abstract” photographs still show a connection with nature. In this respect nature becomes the cause and a constant source for the inspiration of Geist’s imagery. The artist allocates a corresponding form to everything captured and is anxious to put his emotions into them.



Ohne Titel (P4111636), C-Print Aludibond, 110 x 148 cm, Ed. 3+2AP, 2005

A clearly peculiar tone is the guiding theme of his art, which is the distinguished blending of photography and a pictorial texture. The appropriation and metamorphosis of primitive and archaic forms in his photographic work show in compact compositions of coloured blocks and

lines that Geist never fully abandons his subject. He is not only at home in the media of photography and video, but also in painting.



Ohne Titel (P1020931), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 2005



Ohne Titel (1081186), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 2005



Ohne Titel (P1020964), C-Print Aludibond, 52,5 x 70cm, Ed. 5+2AP, 2005

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video : painting : photo

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