

HOLLYBUSH GARDENS IS DELIGHTED TO PRESENT A SOLO EXHIBITION BY JOACHIM SCHMID

PRIVATE VIEW THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 6 - 8 PM

EXHIBITION 18 NOVEMBER - 17 DECEMBER

Working with the photographic image since the 1980s, initially as a critic, Joachim Schmid's relationship evolved from writing to the re-presentation of the image, often in the form of an exhibition and his continuous practice of making artist's books.

Employing the street, the internet, archives and markets - any site where images can be found to form his oeuvre, Schmid uses his gaze to investigate the role and mechanisms of photographic image making. You could say he is an avid gatherer, recycler and purveyor of the vernacular. His practice probes the question of authorship around the production of the photographic image - including those produced by security cameras, webcams, amateurs, drones and shredding machines. He organises these into taxonomies, revealing cultural codes and behaviours as he does so, bound to the specificity of time and place.

The works in this exhibition span from the 1980s to the current day. White Xes mark the spot in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, Texas, where John F. Kennedy was assassinated, now a major tourist attraction. The X is sited in the middle of a freeway slip road. Visitors often wait for a gap in traffic, hurry to one of the Xes, get their photos taken and leave the road before the next vehicle arrives. A webcam is positioned in a window on the sixth floor of the former Texas School Book Depository, the site where, on November 22, 1963, an assassin allegedly fired the shots that killed Kennedy as the presidential motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza. The camera's perspective replicates that of the assassin's viewfinder, but instead shoots tourists shooting their own memorial photos. *X Marks the Spot*, 2013 consists of these images, showing the memorial in action as people stop to have their photograph taken. The work shows us events that unfold when people think they are unobserved. The doubling of the lens, a frame within a frame, reveals something of the space of collective memory and how our relationship and responses to historical acts is constantly in formation, perhaps asking, what is a monument, and what can its function be ?

Security Check, 1985-1987 also uses a form of surveillance to generate the work as gestures and impressionistic partial views are caught on the cameras at airport security checks. The body is in transit, performing a specific task characterised by a set of gestures indicative and specific to our modernity.

Bilder von der Strasse is perhaps Schmid's most known work; a project consisting of 1000 pictures found in public space between 1982 and 2012. A random selection from the project will be on view. Nr 441, found in October, London, 1996, torn in half, shows a decorated elephant and a group of people by a building, perhaps in India. The photograph evokes a tourist's snapshot. The collection and presentation not only makes you consider the image itself, but also its discarded nature, placing you both in and outside of the image and its life where competing narratives collide - conjuring several imagined sites not least the activity and lines of travel by Schmid himself.

O Campo, 2010, depicts Brazilian football fields in cities. As the images are taken via satellite, the lack of uniformity and ad hoc nature of these fields is revealed. The Brazilian desire for football is well documented and these fields herald the socio-political context of the game in Brazil. According to FIFA's laws of the game these pitches would fail their regulatory framework. The work speaks of these contradictions, between reality and expectation and the macro and micro.

Artist's Books are an integral part of Schmid's practice. A selection of self-published books will be on display throughout the exhibition for visitors to browse.

Joachim Schmid (b. 1955, DE) lives and works in Berlin. Previous exhibitions include: Station Fotoforum Kassel, Germany; Museo di Fotografia Contemporanea, Cinisello-Balsamo, Milano, Italy; Les Rencontres d'Arles, France; BildMuseet, Umeå, Sweden; Nederlands Fotomuseum, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; Photographers' Gallery London, UK; FOAM, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwartkunst, Berlin, Germany; Fotomuseum, Winterthur, Switzerland

Schmid has also presented work at a number of art book fairs such as New York Art Book Fair, Offprint, London and Paris; One Thousand Books, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen amongst others.

Please contact karin@hollybushgardens.co.uk for images and further information.

Gallery open: Wednesday - Friday 11 - 6 pm & Saturday 12 - 5 pm or by appointment

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