

PRESS RELEASE

Michael Wesely
Stilleben

Exhibition	28.09.2023 – 18.11.2023
Opening	Thursday 28 September 2023, in the presence of the artist

Text :
Elisa Bernard

Can photography measure the thickness of time ?
This is the question posed by the works of German photographer Michael Wesely presented in the *Stilleben* exhibition.

Michael Wesely creates unique photographic images that are the result of superimposing thousands, or even millions, of individual images captured over a long exposure time.
In this way, in a single photograph, we can see everything that was in front of the lens during a given period of time. If Michael Wesely's approach has similarities with video, which shares with it this recording of reality, it nevertheless captures the essence of a phenomenon, the very idea of a thing. The life of a bouquet of flowers, from birth to wilting, the flickering glow of candles watching over the dead in a Mexican cemetery and the path of the sun across the façade of the Museum of Modern Art as it undergoes renovation, are all condensed in these world images.

This completely destabilises the division of time, because the exposure time needed to create these visual syntheses can be counted in weeks, months or years. The resulting still image doesn't tell the whole story.

From a compositional point of view, there is another reversal.
The moving elements leave less of an imprint than the fixed ones, giving rise to images that seem to quiver, as if animated by an inner mechanism.

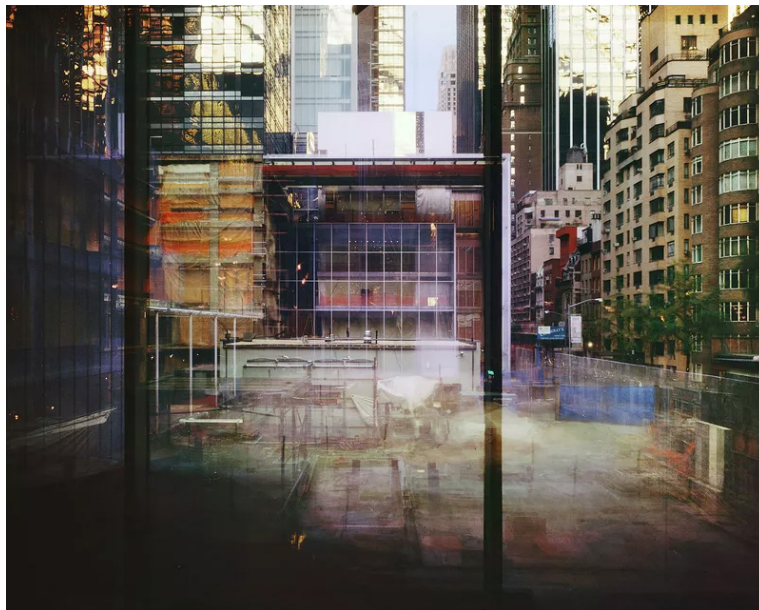
Michael Wesely's works are living images that show us the passage of time. They have the power to take us away from the fixed image that is the hallmark of the photographic medium, to bring us into the life of the subject photographed, which then becomes palpable. Michael Wesely's artistic approach is a return to the memorial dimension that prevailed in the early days of photography. These images are a means of recalling the life of things.

With *Stilleben*, the gallery is exhibiting for the first time the work of Michael Wesely, who recently joined its programme.

Images available
for the press



Michael Wesely, *B7944 Stilleben* (17.4 - 24.4.2020), 2020
Stilleben series, pigment print, unique



Michael Wesely, *B1520 The Museum of Modern Art, New York*
(2.5.2003 - 21.11.2004), 2004, pigment print
Unique, 125 × 150 cm

The use of images is exclusively reserved for the promotion of the exhibition and valid up to its end.

Obligatory mention : ©Michael Wesely, courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

Images available
for the press



Michael Wesely, *B8761 Stilleben* (13.4. - 17.4.2021), 2021
Stilleben series, pigment print, unique



Michael Wesely, *B6649*
Mexico series, pigment print
Unique, 43 x 66 cm

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Obligatory mention : ©Michael Wesely, courtesy Galerie Esther Woerdehoff

BIOGRAPHY

Artist

Michael Wesely

Photography takes us back to the past. Pictures from our early years touch us emotionally ; we feel nostalgia as they refer to a time that is no more. German artist Michael Wesely, born in 1963 in Munich, is interested in this inexistent space where the future becomes the past.

In Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, the present does not exist as a physical value; where we believe we can sense the now, it has already slipped away. Michael Wesely creates a true archive of time over days, weeks, years, while photography is a fast art, with the capturing of a single image usually only taking a fraction of a second. In a well-defined period of time, submissive to the cycles of the earth, the tides, the sun and moon, he creates a single photograph.

Since 1988, he has been creating images with exposure times stretching up to three years, exposed on a single piece of film, with the help of cameras and large-format lenses that he makes himself.

Since 2012, long, digital exposures have given birth to thousands and even millions of individual images which, unlike a film camera, are not placed one behind the other but one above the other. The result is, just as with analogue photographs, a single image that only reveals itself to the viewer gradually.

Solo shows**2019**

1:100 Past and Present, Mies van der Rohe Pavillon, Barcelona, Spain
The Camera was present (1988 – 2018), Grisebach, Düsseldorf, Germany

2018

Doubleday, Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin, Germany

2017

Camera Aberta Instituto Moreira Salles, São Paulo, Brazil
Expedição, Casa Nova Arte e Cultura Contemporânea
Pabelon Aleman, Goethe-Institut, Mexico City, Mexico
Alegorias Galeria MARSO, Mexico City, Mexico

2015

Schule, Markgräfin Wilhelmine Gymnasium, Bayreuth, Germany

2014

The epic view, Mies van der Rohe Haus, Berlin, Germany
An other pencil of nature, part 2, Alfred Ehrhardt Stiftung, Berlin, Germany

2013

An other pencil of nature, NordLB art gallery, Hannover, Germany

2012

Brasília (mit/with Lina Kim), Stadthaus, Ulm, Germany
mortos – vivos, Centro Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil

collected light, Galerie am Stein, Schärding, Austria
Brasília (mit/with Lina Kim), Galerie Fahnemann, Berlin, Germany

2011

Archiv Utopia (mit/with Lina Kim), Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Germany
Potsdamer Platz, Fahnemann Projects, Berlin, Germany

2010

Time Works, Galerie Nusser & Baumgart, Munich, Germany
 Galeria Oscar Cruz, São Paulo, Brasil + Galerie Fahnemann, Berlin, Germany
Korean Landscape The Columns, Seoul, South Korea

2009

Palast der Republik, Galerie Fahnemann, Berlin, Germany

2008

Michael Wesely & L'anverre, The Columns, Seoul, South Korea
Still Life, Studio d'Arte Contemporanea Pino Casagrande, Roma, Italy

2007

Men and Places Chandigarh (mit/with Lina Kim), Galería Blanca Soto, Madrid, Spain
Stilleben, Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag + Fahnemann Projects, Berlin, Germany
Still Life, Galeria Baró Cruz, São Paulo + The Columns, Seoul, South Korea
Works 2000 – 2006, Julie M Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel

2006

Encounter with Caspar David Friedrich, Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany
Open Shutter, Fahnemann Projects, Berlin, Germany
Collected Landscape, The Columns, Seoul, South Korea

2005

Die Erfindung des Unsichtbaren, Guardini Galerie, Berlin, Allemagne + Fotohof, Salzburg, Austria
East German Landscape + Open Shutter, Galeria Baró Cruz, São Paulo, Brazil
Arquivo Brasília (mit/with Lina Kim), Teatro Nacional, Brasília, Brazil

2004

Expedição, Teatro Nacional, Brasília, Brazil
Open Shutter Project, Museum of Modern Art, New York, United-States
Ostdeutsche Landschaften, Fahnemann Projects, Berlin, Germany

2003

Kleiner Ausflug, Kunstverein Rosenheim, Rosenheim, Germany
Camera d'arte – ordine del giorno, Galica arte contemporanea, Milan, Italy
Iconografias Metropolitanas, Fahnemann Projects, Berlin, Germany

2001

American Landscapes, Galerie Fahnemann, Berlin, Germany

2000

Paesaggi Americani, Galleria Primo Piano, Roma, Italy
La memoria dell' esposizione, Goethe-Institut, Roma, Italy
American Landscape, Museum Schloss Moyland, Bedburg-Hau, Germany
Potsdamer Platz, Berlin 1997–1999, Daimler Kunst Sammlung, Haus Huth, Berlin, Germany

1999

PHE99, Galería Metta, Madrid, Spain

1998

On Photography, Stefan Stux Gallery, New York, United-States

1997

Spiaggia, Galleria Primo Piano, Roma, Italy

Percezione, Grossetti Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy

Strand, Walter Storms Galerie, Munich, Germany

1996

Analytical work, Museum voor Fotografie, Antwerp, Belgium

1995

New York 1995, Walter Storms Galerie, Munich, Germany

Palazzi di Roma, Galleria Primo Piano, Roma, Italy

1994

Reisezeit: zwei Bilderzyklen, Goethe-Institut, Rotterdam, Netherlands

1993

Handarbeit, Galerie Binder & Rid, Munich, Germany + Galerie Eboran, Salzburg, Austria

1992

Salzburg 1990, Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria

Ladengalerie der Künstlerwerkstatt Lothringer Straße, Munich, Germany

1990

Salzburg 1990, Firmian Salm Haus, Salzburg, Austria

Lochkamera Portraits (mit / with Hubert Maier), Kellergalerie der Bayerischen Staatslehranstalt für Photographie, Munich, Germany

1988

Lochkamera Portraits (mit / with Hubert Maier), Firmian Salm Haus, Salzburg, Austria

Group shows**2023**

Photo Basel, Galerie Esther Woerdehoff, Basel, Switzerland

2019

No Photos on the Dancefloor, Berlin, Germany

2018

Licht im / als Bild, Sammlung Daimler Art Collection, Stuttgart, Germany

2017

Auf unbekanntem Terrain, Sammlung Hurrle, Museum für aktuelle Kunst, Durbach, Germany

Frestas Trienal, SESC Sorocaba SESC, Sorocaba, Brazil

2016

Minus Ego, Goethe-Institut, Barcelona, Spain
Gebrochen Deutsch, Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kiel, Germany
Elective Affinities, Lettisches Nationales Kunstmuseum, Riga, Latvia
EchtZEIT, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany
Die Kerze, Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, Germany
Getxophoto 2016, Getxo, Spain

2015

Zeitgeist: the Art of New Berlin, CCBB Belo Horizonte & CCBB, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Passion – Fan behavior and Art, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany
Enlight my Space, Kunsthalle Bremen, Germany

2014

Enthüllung und Verzauberung, Kunstmuseum, Bonn, Germany
FUTEBOL / Das Spiel hört erst auf wenn es zu Ende ist., NKV, Wiesbaden, Germany
How long is now?, Volpinum Wien und Museum für Fotografie, Burghausen, Germany

2013

Arquivo Brasilia (mit/with Lina Kim), X. Architekturbiennale, São Paulo, Brazil
Flowers & Mushrooms, Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, Austria
Concrete Fotografie und Architektur, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
Ostrale'013, Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Dresden, Germany
Alles neu!, Kunsthalle zu Kiel, Kiel, Germany

2012

Arsenale 2012, 1st Kiev Bienale, Kiev, Ukraine
new media reloaded Galerie von Braunbehrens, Munich, Germany
lichtempfindlich, Sammlung Schaufler, Sindelfingen, Germany
Das Narrative in der Fotografie, Kunsthaus, Kaufbeuren, Germany
Lost Paradise, Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany

2011

Lichtgefüge, Gemäldegalerie, Kassel, Germany
Gefrorene Zeit, Fotogalerie Wien, Austria
Unschärf Nach Gerhard Richter, Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany
Sprelacart, E105 Galerie, Berlin, Germany
Off, Galería Blanca Soto, Madrid, Spain
Entretiempos, Centro de Arte La Regenta, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
Beyond Architecture, The Columns, Seoul, South Korea

2010

Summer Loves, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Entretiempos, Teatro Fernán Gómez (Art Centre), PhotoEspaña2010, Madrid, Spain
Jetzt Die erzählte Zeit, Darmstädter Tage der Fotografie, Darmstadt, Germany
FotoTageTrier, (mit/with Lina Kim), Trier, Germany
Beauty Flowers in Photography, Alexander Ochs Galleries, Beijing, China
Time Death & Beauty, Moving Gallery, Omaha, United-States

2009

Everyday Ideologies, Kunstmuseum, Magdeburg, Germany
Dasigaehang, Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, South Korea
Berlin 89/09 Kunst zwischen Spurensuche und Utopie, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany

Retratos de Nueva York: Fotografías del MoMA, La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain
Nature, Galerie Fahnenmann, Berlin, Germany
Unreal, The Columns, Seoul, South Korea
Video in Foco/Photo in Foco, Galeria Baro Cruz, São Paulo, Brazil
Focus Photographie, Galerie & Edition Bode GmbH, Nuremberg, Germany
Remain in Light, W139, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Selected Artists, James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe, United-States

2008

Stille Landschaften, Städtische Galerie Lüdenscheid, Germany
Le Chamois de Messidor, PROGRAM initiative for art and architectural collaborations, Berlin, Germany
Visite Von Gerhard Richter bis Rebecca Horn, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, Germany

2007

Reality Crossings (mit/with Lina Kim), 2nd Fotofestival Mannheim, Germany
Ziemlich Hoch Das Alpine in der zeitgenössischen Kunst, Kaufbeuren, Germany
Men & Places (mit/with Lina Kim), Galeria Blanca Soto, Madrid, Spain
Temptations, The Columns, Seoul, South Korea
Spectacular City – Architekturfotografie, NRW-Forum Kultur und Wirtschaft, Düsseldorf, Germany

2006

Spectacular City, Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands
XIII Rohkunstbau Drei Farben Blau Wasserschloss, Groß Leuthen, Germany
Die Schönheit der Chance, Institut für Moderne Kunst, Nuremberg, Germany
Futebol Desenho Sobre o Fundo Verde, CCBB, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
herzog & de meuron no 250, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
Metropolitanscape (with/with Lina Kim), Palazzo Cavour, Torino, Italy
Through the Looking Glass (mit/with Lina Kim), Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
Arquivo Brasília (mit/with Lina Kim), Novena Bienal de la Habana, La Havane, Cuba

2005

After the Facts, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany
Focus Istanbul, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany
Photo Triennale, Seoul, South Korea
Berliner Zimmer, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin, Germany

2004

Coletiva, Galeria Baró Cruz, São Paulo, Brazil

2003

4a Bienal do Mercosul, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Interrogare il luogo, Studio la Città, Verona, Italy

2002

Europe – America, Selection from the 25th Biennale of São Paulo, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Santiago, Chile
25th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo, Brazil
Brasília: Ruína e utopia Centro Cultural do Banco do Brasil, Brasília, Brazil
Das verblasste Ideal – Klassik heute, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany
Verweile doch..., Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich, Germany

2001

2115 km, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, Moscow, Russia

Das flache Land, Zur Ästhetik einer unspektakulären Sichtweise – Kunstmuseum
Dieselkraftwerk Cottbus – Brandenburgische Kulturstiftung Cottbus, Germany

2000

Modern Starts: Places, Museum of Modern Art, New York, United-States

1999

Wohin kein Auge reicht, Deichtorhallen Hambourg, Germany

El Retorno de Humboldt, Asociación Cultural Humboldt, Caracas, Venezuela

A Puzzling Strategy, James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe, United-States

1998

Es grünt so grün, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany

Die Macht des Alters Strategien der Meisterschaft, Kronprinzenpalais, Berlin,

Germany + Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany + Galerie der Stadt Stuttgart, Germany

1996

Dead Pan, Kunstverein München, Munich, Germany

1995

Förderpreise der Landeshauptstadt München, Künstlerwerkstatt Lothringer Straße,
Munich, Germany

1994

Züge Züge Die Eisenbahn in der zeitgenössischen Kunst, Städtische Galerie
Göppingen, Germany + Villa Merkel, Esslingen, Germany

1993

Dorothea von Stetten Kunstpreis, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Germany

1992

Magia Naturalis, Galerie hlavního města Prahy, Prague, Czech Republic