

FABIAN & CLAUDE WALTER GALERIE

ICONS | Annelies Štrba

Selected works from the past 25 years

Opening: Thursday 15 November 6 — 8 pm

Exhibition duration: 17 November to 22 December 2018

ICONS is a selection of Annelies Štrba's multi-faceted oeuvre and an in-depth examination of the individual work cycles of the past 25 years. In this exhibition, Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie presents a selection of photographs from the series "Shades of Time", "Nyima", "Aya" and "Tsukikawa" as well as canvas works that Štrba produced in collaboration with Adrian Schiess for the exhibition "Summerendig" at the Museum Langmatt, Baden in 2011.

Annelies Štrba (born 1947 in Zug, Switzerland), who already held a camera in her hand since her youth and completed an apprenticeship as a photographer from 1962 to 1965, spent the years after her marriage to the jewelry artist Bernhard Schobinger in photographic seclusion. Her everyday family life with the children Sonja, Samuel and Linda was the intimate, thematic subject of her photographs. This happened "less out of conceptual consideration than out of inner necessity," describes the text of the exhibition at the Kunsthalle Zürich, curated in 1990 by the then director Bernhard Mendes Bürgi. With this exhibition, Štrba's series of photographs in the form of black-and-white photographic canvases were presented to the public for the first time. The simple, analogue photographs of that time, the personal situations and developments within the family, are then as now tangible and accessible to the viewer. We are close at hand, but never have the feeling of disturbing the intimate events. In addition to a lively exhibition activity, many trips to Japan and Great Britain followed, during which the work experienced its "emancipation," writes Simon Maurer in his foreword to the publication NYIMA by Helmhaus Zürich. Štrba's pictorial language seems to be grabbing for flexibility, and a shift in focus from family pictures to landscape, architectural and urban pictures is discernible. This can be explained biographically on the one hand, but is also part of the artist's emerging interest in moving images.

In 1997, Annelies Štrba compiled the photographs, which had been taken since 1970, in a triple slide projection entitled "Shades of Time", and in the same year began to work with video. The resulting video stills are printed by Štrba on canvas, which specifically combines film and photography into one medium. The blurring of media boundaries becomes particularly clear in Štrba's more recent works from 2002 onwards, because at this point she shifts from analogue to digital technology. Her interest here is in pixel structures, vibrant colors, and the digital processing obviously designed by the artist. Some of these works were part of the 2002 group exhibition "Claude Monet... to digital Impressionism" at the Fondation Beyeler in Basel. In her series "Madonna", Štrba even intervenes reduced with paint and brush. Thus the works seem to oscillate between the various media with an almost painterly effect. Using modern, technical aids, the artist succeeds in transforming the often classical motifs of art history into the present, as it were.

"Annelies Štrba is a shaman, a last primordial mother, who brings out from her deepest inner being images that have long since been lost to the world," describes the art critic Alexander Pühringer Štrba's works, explaining with these words why Štrba's iconic works, from 1970 to the present day, repeatedly lead us into strange, dreamlike and yet well-known worlds.

For further information about the artist and her work as well as additional images please contact the gallery.

¹ Exhibition cat. ANNELIES ŠTRBA - Aeschewiese, exhibition text, Kunsthalle Zürich, 31 March to 27 May 1990.

² Exhibition cat. NYIMA, foreword, Simon Maurer, foreword, Helmhaus Zurich, 6 June to 27 July 2003.