

Romeo Vendrame | Choreography

Opening: Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 6 – 8 pm

Duration of exhibition: October 3 – November 2, 2019

*London calling to the faraway towns
Now war is declared and battle come down
(The Clash, London Calling, 1979)*

With these famous lines the punk band *The Clash* sang about the magnetic and at the same time threatening London of the 70s. At that time, Romeo Vendrame was also in the metropolis and, like many others, used photography to capture scenes, places and situations that caught his attention. Time passed and over the years Vendrame developed a new understanding of photography. Fabian & Claude Walter Galerie is presenting a selection of Vendrame's works from the series *Choreography* in the gallery's cabinet, parallel to the exhibition *Carlo Borer | Beyond Fiction*.

The photographs taken by Romeo Vendrame in the 1970s are the starting point of the series *Choreography*. Before Vendrame began his artistic career, he often travelled to London, exploring the streets of the city with his camera, documenting the nighttime in Soho, famous buildings, modern architecture, urban signs and everyday street scenes from Brixton and Piccadilly Circus. Hundreds of slides made during his stays in London rested for 40 years in the artist's studio and were forgotten over the years. It was not until 2014 that Vendrame looked at his photographs of London again. Inspired by Graham Greene's spy novel *The Human Factor* (1978), which was set in London, atmospheric memories of Vendrame's time in London awakened.

In *Choreography*, Vendrame transforms images from the past into his current photographic language. The artist achieves this in an "analogue" way by projecting the slides through translucent materials onto foil, creating a multi-layered, new image. This translation is then photographed again. In this series, Romeo Vendrame defines himself as author and director in one. In the 1970s, he took the photographs, thus writing the photographic piece, and only decades later did he stage it. The photographer describes this process as choreography. The original photographs lead back to the 1970s, and the transformation of these images can be described as a major step into the present. The photographs in the series are hybrids from different times. They show different superimpositions and thus present a mixture of states of consciousness.

For images and further information, please contact the gallery.