

WONDERS OF THE WORLD

With **Olaf Otto Becker, Alejandro Durán, Han Sungpil, Kate & Geir Jordahl, Matthias Jung, Janelle Lynch, Jamey Stillings, Brad Temkin** and **Federico Winer**

Exhibition period: **17.06 – 11.09.2016**

Press tour: **Thursday, June 16th, 11 am**

Opening: **Thursday, June 16th, 7 pm**

Frankfurt, 16/6/2016 – These worlds astonish, irritate and amaze: Fotografie Forum Frankfurt presents nine examples of contemporary landscape photography in **WONDERS OF THE WORLD** from **June 17th – September 11th, 2016**. Each approach is very unique in showing how man deals with the environment and the landscape. The show addresses issues about generating energy resources and processing waste as well as man's responsibility for the environment and the climate. Through diverse artistic approaches, each of these internationally-renowned photographers demonstrates the impact that man has on nature and alternatively how nature's beauty remains an evocative and sometimes provocative constant.

The photographs on view document man's interference and encroachment upon natural environments. Visualizing the sublime and the hidden truths behind the beauty of nature the concepts also illustrate nature's vulnerability and the threats to it. Some of the photo-artists use the terms "landscape" and "landscape architecture" in new, topical ways. These wonders of the world thus give fresh impetus to reflect on sustainability and landscape and landscape photography – and provide inspiration for wonder and for realization.

In the exhibition American photographer **JAMEY STILLINGS** (*1955) examines the constant search for new sources of energy and innovative technologies. His impressive black and white photographs, document the construction of Ivanpah, currently the world's largest solar thermal plant and located in California's Mojave Desert. The photographs exhibited are part of the photographer's current photo book "The Evolution of Ivanpah Solar" (2015, Steidl publishers) and are also part of a larger project in which he will photograph landscapes worldwide with renewable energy sources.

Korean photo-artist **HAN SUNGPIL** (*1972) is also occupied with energy resources and the controversial options for achieving it. The video films from his "Ground Cloud" project show the development and atmospheric changes of clouds around atomic plants in the French Loire Valley. The short films are shot in time lapse. The steam rising from the cooling towers turns into fleeting cloud formations before the observer's eyes, resembling poetic or secretive technological smoke signals.

German photographer **MATTHIAS JUNG** (*1967) shows the effects of coal mining on the landscape, villages and their residents, right up to their disappearance. His long-term project, "Revier" documents the Garzweiler and Hambach mining operations in the Rhenish lignite mining area between Aachen and Cologne. His documentation records the extensive advances of lignite mining, the protest against it, and people's resettlement.

Hidden messages and human traces play a role in German photographer **OLAF OTTO BECKER'S** (*1959) mesmerizing compositions of the melting of glacial ice and snow fields. Global warming has long been a focus of his artistic interest. Due to the extreme weather conditions his photographs emphasize the particularity of lighting conditions in these remote landscape regions. At the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt works from Becker's Greenland series, "Broken Line" and "Above Zero," convey the sublimity and vulnerability of the ice landscapes.

Chicago photo-artist **BRAD TEMKIN** (*1956) has been documenting rooftop gardens in city corporate buildings since 2010 under the title "Rooftop." His works, which also appeared at the beginning of 2016 in a photobook by Radium publishers, shed light on the worldwide trend of integrating green areas into urban landscapes. They convey the ecological meaning of these new urban greens and reflect the human desire for life in harmony with nature – even in urban environments.

Using digital resources, **FEDERICO WINER** (*1973) creates extraordinary topographies from satellite pictures of the earth. By way of computer, Winer processed views from space for the group of works entitled "Monsters," emphasizing the figurative outlines. "Monsters" is celebrating its world premiere at the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt.

American photographer **JANELLE LYNCH** (*1969) conveys an intimate glance at the regenerative power and beauty of nature. Using an 8x10-inch view camera, she recorded the "Akna" photo series, in the highlands of the Mexican Chiapas mountains. Named after the Mayan fertility goddess, the portrait-like compositions depict tree stumps which act as a fertile base for new growth. Which also represent people who have helped her in life.

The grace and splendor of Chinese landscapes and parks have cast their spell on American-Norwegian artist pair **KATE & GEIR JORDAHL** (*1959/1957). Through the use of a wide-angle lens, the two photographers create a magical look at these places. Their fascinating black and white photography appears as looking through a glass ball. The spherical photos from the "Circle of Life" series present apparently-perfect microcosms. Numerous of these rotunda landscapes will be projected in Frankfurt as a loop.

Mexican artist **ALEJANDRO DURÁN** (*1974) generates land-art with his "Washed up: Transforming a Trashed Landscape" installation and photo project. He has collected plastic rubbish washed ashore on the beaches of Mexico, sorted it and staged it within natural environments. By doing this he creates surreal-looking landscapes – yet also aesthetic statements which critically and positively point to the environmental problems continually created by man.