

SEBASTIAN STADLER

*TRAVERTINES*

28.03. – 11.05.2019

The Heinzer Reszler Gallery is pleased to announce Sebastian Stadler's first exhibition in its gallery. Stadler's practice of photography and video focuses on highlighting trivial scenes and objects in his environment. He captures the evolution of photography in view of the possibilities offered by technology. When creating images is democratised and easy, and therefore constantly increasing, when the tools for processing/manipulation and promotion of images are growing exponentially, what happens to the purpose of photography and what new perspectives are promised?

The series *Travertines* consists of 40 silkscreen prints on slabs of travertine, a sedimentary limestone rock used to construct the city of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. The photos included in it were taken during several stays in this region over the past three years.

An amphora exhibited in a museum, a pile of snow on a black car or even tables with chess games – each shot transcribes fragments of the history of a region unknown to us and very remote from mass tourism areas. Described by Stephan Wackwitz as “the forgotten centre of the world”, Armenia, stretching beyond the Bosphorus, symbolises the ultimate spiritual frontier on the edge of Europe. The travertine slabs installed directly on the floor of the gallery space seem to have come straight from the quarry, waiting to be processed. Each step through the installation gives the visitor a vague awareness of this distant place. The images become sorts of illusory landmarks in the mosaic of the installation.

Sebastian Stadler (Swiss and Finnish) was born in 1988 and lives in Zurich. He holds a Bachelor's degree in photography from ECAL (2011). He is the winner of several awards such as the Manor St.Gallen Prize, the Canton of Thurgau Promotional Prizes (2017) and the UBS Foundation for Culture (2015). He won a Swiss Art Awards in Basel in 2013. Sebastian Stadler has already held solo exhibitions at institutions such as the Photoforum PasquArt in Biel and Kunsthaus Rapperswil. At the end of the year, an exhibition will be dedicated to him at the Kunstmuseum in St.Gallen as part of the Manor Prize. During this exhibition, a monograph on his work will be published. Other exhibitions include “Ein Augenschein von 1944-2017” at the Haus Konstruktiv in Zurich and “When The Air Becomes Electric”, which he will take part in this spring at the Geneva Photography Centre. In September, his work will be exhibited at the trade show Unseen Amsterdam 2019. His images can be found in the collections of the cantons of St. Gallen and Thurgau, Credit Suisse and Thurgauer Kantonalbank, among others.