

I work on a slightly different analog multimedia installation called «This sense of wonder». Designed as a great happening it will not only arouse the viewers' curiosity but also their participation.

What is my work about?

«Life and death, the flicker that separates one from the other – fast as a bat's wing, more beautiful than every sonnet.» Dorian Gray in TV Show *Penny Dreadful*

No camera can catch the ephemeral instant between life and death but it can capture the time before and after it, the time of withering and decay. My installation gives the viewers an understanding of their own transiency and leads them into the wonders of deaths and its remains. Prints, projections, sculptures and many different lighting-and-view-devices elicit an uneasy pleasure that merges awe and dread, incredulity or even revulsion. We dive into a modern yet baroque universe.



Detail Installationsansicht *This sense of wonder*

Working with different photographic genres

By combining nature, scientific, macro, abstract, and forensic photography I create new photographic genres. I collect dead insects and fix them to glass slides with salt, hairspray, or glue. The bright light of old slide projectors transform their semitransparent body parts into fragile but powerful projections.

Flowers – soaked in salty or limy water and left to dry – are transformed into abstract imagery whose gorgeous details are only visible because the negatives are enlarged to huge prints or foils for light boxes.



Bugs unknown XXVIII, Dia, mit Kalk fixierte Fliegen- und Larventeilen

Still life and portrait photographs

I literally go back to the meaning of the word *Portrait* which descends from the latin word *protahere*. It translates as *to bring something to light*. For my analog images the only light source I use is natural day light coming through a window. The images are of a serene reduction leaving as much as possible to the viewer's imagination.

Analog multimedia installation ... what's that about?

In my site-specific installation the viewer walks around slide projectors, light boxes, light desks, self-designed luminaries, slide viewing kits, and last but not least photographic prints.

- Slides with dead insects are shown as projections and also as unique sculptural objects in self-designed luminaries.
- In water submerged portraits surprise the viewer with an intense almost eery encounter. The photographed people look the viewer straight in the eye from under the water, Ophelia-like, peaceful but unsettling.
- Some of the still life and abstract photographs will be shown as big prints, in light boxes, and as overhead projections.
- The exhibitions space will be bathed in a somber light. The viewers get flash lights to explore the prints on the walls and the portraits in the water.
- On a small shelf items from my laboratory-type studio are on display. They give an insight into my process-based working methods and fragile working process.

What I care about

I focus on experimenting with the setting and staging of photographic images. My imagery reflects the media's history and its function. Photography seems to snatch moments of time from mortality. But the captured moments are no more than representations of the past lingering on the beauty of decay. They are ephemeral like the electronic light that fuels the projectors: As soon as the power supply is cut off, the images fade into darkness without leaving a trace.

«With light as her most valuable ally, Lustenberger depicts beings and silences, atmospheres and scraps of matter – skin, fur, feathers, wood, fruit, flowers and objects on which she seems to bestow a soul, to tell mysterious, whispered stories. She is spectacularly successful at creating an enigmatic universe that incites the spirit to dream.» Julia Hountou



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All animals used for my works were found dead.