

# ROBILANT + VOENA

## German Photography

Elger Esser | Candida Höfer | Gerhard Richter | Thomas Ruff

9 July – 5 August 2015

Via Serlas 35, St Moritz 7500 (CH)

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Saturday 2pm-7pm



**ROBILANT+VOENA** announce the opening of the exhibition **German Photography** at their St Moritz gallery. The show will include works from some of the best known contemporary German photographers: Elger Esser, Candida Höfer, Thomas Ruff and Gerhard Richter.

Technical perfection, large-format prints, and an impersonal vision: these are the hallmarks of the group of photographers commonly known as the Düsseldorf School of Photography, who studied at the Kunstakademie Dusseldorf in the mid-1970s under the influential photographers Bernd and Hiller Becher, and from which Thomas Ruff, Candida Höfer and Elger Esser all graduated.

These artists present us with varied and innovative explorations of this medium, for example Ruff's more recent projects - *Nudes*, *cycles* and *ma.r.s.* – included in the exhibition with selected works, are concerned with exploring the possibilities of the photographic medium and the uses of photography on the Internet. Conversely, Candida Höfer is best known for her series of classical, large-scale pictures of imposing social spaces, represented here by *Villa Borghese*, *The London Library*, *Teatro la Fenice di Venezia*, which are completely devoid of human presence. Empty and meditative landscapes also form a part of Elger Esser's artistic investigations with his later work focussing on the rural idyll, whether this be in Europe as in *Paludo San Giacomo*, (near Venice) or in the vast expanses of the American countryside, which can be seen in *Sacramento River*. Quietly meditative landscapes which present a grand pastoral vision of countryside untouched by human activity, these works recall the tradition of nineteenth century German romantic landscape painting.

Gerhard Richter's work also forms an important part of our exhibition with the photographic reproduction of one of his most famous paintings, *Uncle Rudi*, painted in 1965 (which in turn is based on a photograph from a Richter family album). This work is arguably the greatest anti-portrait in 20th-century art, and was enormously influential providing a radical, uncompromising and confrontational way for artists to ask questions about the horrific acts initiated by their own.

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