Gerda Schütte – Photography!
A Retrospective Look Forward

September 8 – November 4, 2017
Opening: Friday, September 8, 7 – 9.30 pm

Ébullition N° 1, 2013, 25,2 x 20,1 cm, photogram, silver gelantine print

With the rise of digital photography the artist Gerda Schütte, who has been living in Paris for 40 years, laid aside the camera as her working tool and began working solely with light and light-sensitive paper in the dark room. Her work is an amazing discovery!

She creates entirely new visual worlds that are not intended to reproduce objects, but become visual and abstract signs and aesthetic experiences. The artist is not interested in re-
turning to the beginnings of photography; the perfectionist prefers to focus on the dynamism of the visual quest. Her oeuvre belongs to the circle of great abstract photography. Recently her works have been featured in some important exhibitions, for example in Alchemie in the Berlin Kulturforum.

**Analogous Photography**
The exhibition *Gerda Schütte – Photography! A Retrospective Look Forward*, presented in the entire gallery space on her 75th birthday, traces the beginning of her photographic creative activity, showing examples from her work, which illustrate how, from the start of her (then still) photographic activity in 1989, Schütte has been interested in moving beyond figurative photography to define her own process of transforming the depicted content into abstract signs, despite originally working with a nude model. The series *Les Signes de vie* from 1990 may serve to illustrate how the artist, by use of creative and interpretative means, creates new visual worlds through intentional overexposure, making it difficult to imagine that they were created in close engagement with the model.

![Different motifs of the series Signes de vie, 1992, ea. 30 x 23,8 cm, ea. an edition of 10, silver gelantine print](image)

**Photograms**
At the latest since 2002 Gerda Schütte has been working with the photograms and developing successive series, either abstract ones as the series *La face cachée des choses*, *Les précieuses de lumière* or *Luminosité*, distinguished by the reduction of form, or showing vegetal floral motifs (as in the series *Spring* or the triptych *Coquelicot*), thus stretching the genre.
of photography and the technique of the photogram to its limits, making the observers ask themselves whether it may be a watercolour or a drawing they are confronted with.

View in her exhibition *Photogrammes with Vols arrêtés (diptyc) and Objets de lumière N° 1–8 in 2013*

*Spring N° 2 und N° 4, 2007–08, 60 x 50 cm, contact print of photogram, silver gelantine print*
The series of the Ébullitions or the Abysses are a result of her alchemist experiments in the darkroom and leave the observer wondering again how these could be photograms. 6 works from the series of Ébullitions from the collection Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Kunstmuseum, were on view in the great exhibition Alchemie. Die große Kunst at Berliner Kulturforum (starting image of this press release).

Teaching Activity and Withdrawal from the Art Market
During her years in Paris, from 1988 to 2011, Gerda Schütte has been teaching photography at Parsons School of Design with little interest in the art market. In fact, she was openly skeptical about the art market and may have consciously withdrawn from Vanity Fair and the pressure of expectation. Nevertheless, she has created an incredible and unique oeuvre, which I, as a friend and colleague, have had the pleasure of accompanying since the 1980ies, and since 2011 as her gallerist!

A Further Exhibition
The exhibition in the gallery Semjon Contemporary is complemented by the exhibition Souvenirs d’Afrique – Photographs and Photograms by Gerda Schütte in the gallery of the Tempelhof Museum.

Both exhibitions are accompanied by additional events (see below).
Souvenirs d'Afrique, 1993, je 100 x 60 cm, Silbergelatin-Print

Photography Volume Published by Kehrer Verlag
Alongside the exhibition the extensive volume Gerda Schütte – Photography will be published by Kehrer Verlag already in mid-August in German, French and English, comprising 192 pages, numerous duotones and some colour illustrations. The volume is complemented by an essay on her photograms by Ludger Derenthal, head of the photographic collection of the Berlin Art Library. The interview with the artist, conducted via e-mail in April and May 2017 by Matthias Harder, curator at the Helmut Newton Foundation, provides insights into her artistic practice and her self-image as an artist.
Semjon Contemporary

*Gerda Schütte: Fotografie - Eine Rückschau nach vorn*
September 8th – November 4th, 2017

Opening and photo book release: September 8th, 19 - 21.30 p.m.

November 4th, 19 p.m.: finissage

For further events please refer to the homepage of the gallery
Tue-Sa 13 - 19 p.m. and on appointment
www.semjoncontemporary.com
office@semjoncontemporary.com, 030-784 12 91, 0175-208 23 39

Galerie im Tempelhof Museum

*Souvenirs d’Afrique – Fotografien und Fotogramme von Gerda Schütte*
September 8th – December 8th, 2017

Sunday, September 10th, 15 p.m.: *Meet the Artist*

Donnerstag 2. November, 19 Uhr: Gerda Schütte – Photograms
Lecture by Ludger Derenthal

Alt-Mariendorf 43, 12107 Berlin
Mo-Thu 10-18, Fr 10-14, So 11-15
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