

## Susanne Pomrehn – *New Movements – Photocuts*

Susanne Pomrehn, an unusual archivist: paper cuts between destruction and new creation

The Berlin artist Susanne Pomrehn arranges large-scale installations of photocuts. The cut-outs seem to swell out of the wall, sometimes dozens or hundreds of these are rolled and folded, lined up, stacked and covered with other cuttings. The sculptural systems either conquer the space like a rhizome growing into it, or they are clamped together by nylon threads on different levels. Pomrehn describes these three-dimensional objects in their thematic or motivic concentration as *Installational spatial bodies*.

In the current exhibition titled *New Movements – Photocuts*, Pomrehn creates an idea of a wall piece by using images sourced from the Internet of the so-called "Arab revolution", especially from North Africa, which she formally interlocks into a kind of arabesque. The cutting of the figures paraphrases the prohibition of human (and God's) image. Another aspect of this matter is the characterization of people in media images as a mass (phenomenon) but simultaneously the visual concretization of individuals. Significantly Pomrehn named a former publication *Collective Formations* to describe her body-space installations and photocuts.

In principle, Pomrehn creates a shift in her image contents, creating new form and content. Due to the technique of photocutting and folding she returns the relevant figures to a three-dimensionality, which in (flat) photography seems present only by a spatial image illusion. This generates a disruption of content, whereby often the outside world and external perception of the people shown in the Pop-Ups are drifting at the edges.

This Berlin artist does not add to our daily flood of pictures any new ones, but edits and comments on already existing material. Due to the shift of context, the combination and the cuts, they become newly interpreted and functionalised. The photographs serve as the main foundation of her work. Beyond the cutting, twisting and glueing, a new medial quality is created: an autonomous object finally woven into a great narrative.

Matthias Harder  
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Exhibition duration: 25.11 – 23.12.2011