

Rote und weiße Pflaumen

Galerie Albrecht is pleased to present new photographs by Norio Takasugi as part of the EMOP (European Month of Photography). It is the third solo exhibition at the gallery by Takasugi, who moved to Berlin in 2004.

It has always been Norio Takasugi's endeavour to lend three-dimensionality to the photograph. As a photographer, he started late. He actually studied industrial design and sculpture at Musashino Art University in Tokyo and graduated in 1999 as a sculptor. He came to photography indirectly through his grandfather, who had studied photography and later ran a photo studio, which his uncle ran after him, and from that uncle he inherited a Mamiya medium-format camera and a Nikon 35 mm camera, both of which he still uses today. He doesn't use a 3-D-printer to achieve three-dimensionality. Just as he uses analogue cameras, he also looks for analogue solutions for the task he set himself. He has tried already several paths, and his most recent work led him to success.

He developed a method of making photographic prints by using a technique that was first used in the 18th century by Japanese painters. The best-known work using this technique is Red and White Plum Blossoms by Korin Ogata (1658-1716). The exhibition's title Rote und Weiße Pflaumen is a reference to this work. The technique was only deciphered in 2011 during a joint research project at Tokyo University of Science and the MOA Museum of Art. Norio Takasugi says about this, "Through my work with classic photography and its technology, I became interested in silver as a material. With leaf silver and sulphur, it is possible to achieve various and irregular shades of black. This shade of black fascinates me, and I find it more lively than painted black or the black of gelatin prints."

With this technique, black and white or silver become two completely separate areas. The motif shines silvery and reflective through a deep black surface, mysteriously illuminated into three-dimensionality. The motifs are plants and trees, the latter all natural monuments in Berlin.

A further theme that has been a constant in Norio Takasugi's work from the beginning is evident here: the confrontation of mass product and unique piece. How is it possible to create unique pieces in a time of mass production – and above all: how is this possible to create real unique pieces with photography, a medium that was designed from the start to create reproducible images, not by artificially limiting an edition, but to make really truly unique pieces? His new technique enables him to do just that, because the results always vary and are not predictable. Every print is unique.

Norio Takasugi, born in 1973 in Japan, studied industrial design and sculpture at the Musashino Art University in Tokyo. Since 2004, he has been working and living in Berlin.

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MONTH OF
PHOTOGRAPHY

Poster 2-11/BR, 2018, silk screen print, 35 x 26,7 cm

Reverse GB-5, 2018, silk screen print, 25,6 x 17,7 cm

NORIO TAKASUGI

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October 12 - November 3, 2018

Opening October 12, 7pm



