

Press Release
Adrian Sauer
Photo Works

Adrian Sauer (*1976) researches the nature of photography, dealing with the current state of the medium in pictures, written programs, texts, and installations. Through his art he explores photography's functionality and traps, casting doubt upon its great promise of being a reliable, objective reproduction of reality. His new book is the first to compile many of his *Photo Works* from the past fifteen years. At the same time, it provides insight into the transformation of the medium and the new opportunities for showing and seeing it presents.

Over 256 pages, *Foto Arbeiten/Photo Works* spans an arc that begins with pieces from the year 2005 and ends with works created this year. Adrian Sauer concentrates not only on the exploration of visual motifs, but also pursues a multilayered reflection of his medium. "The question of whether a photograph is staged or spontaneously shot is only the visible part of the iceberg. In my work I inquire into how technology itself affects the visual impact," says the artist, during a conversation with Katrina Sluis. With its 23 works of art, this book makes it possible to imagine how Sauer challenges photography. His work focuses on the critical observation of camera optics, light, photographic recording and reproduction, and the physical qualities of the photographic. In *Foto Arbeiten/Photo Works* we initially see the lines connecting the series, and it becomes possible to perceive how changes in technology and the way the medium is used are inscribed in Sauer's art.

His early works are based on his own photographs; Sauer erases all of the colors recorded by the camera and then replaces them with their digitally computed equivalents. This kind of reduced, albeit elaborate intervention in the photographic process is characteristic of the artist's work methods. In these works, as in later ones, he creates a disturbance in the perception of the image, lightly questioning the notion of the realistic photograph in the digital age. Sauer records the exact number of digitally calculable colors in *16.777.216 Farben* (16,777,216 Colors; 2010) and the finiteness of black-and-white depiction in *256 Graustufen* (256 Shades of Gray, 2020). In *Schwarze Quadrate* (Black Squares, 2012) it becomes clear what happens when motif and camera sensor come into conflict, and *Unboxing Photoshop* (2011) features a Photoshop CD-ROM, which is now an outdated mode of distributing that particular computer program. Sauer also uses more than camera technology and self-written programs to articulate his thoughts about photography. With programmatic texts such as the *Glossar* (Glossary, 2017) and the sculptural objects *Die platonischen Körper* (The Platonic Body, 2019) and *Spiegel mit einem Band* (Mirror with a band, 2015), he expands the observation of the medium and its mechanisms.

Adrian Sauer was born in Berlin 1976 and lives in Leipzig. From 1997 to 2003 he studied in Leipzig at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst. In 2005 he completed his master's under the tutelage of Timm Rautert. Most recently, his works have been seen in solo shows at the Oldenburg Kunstverein at the Folkwang University of the Arts (Sanaa Building) in Essen, as well as in group shows at the Fotohof Salzburg, Frac Normandie Rouen, the Sprengel Museum in Hanover, the Fotomuseum Winterthur, and at the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn.

Adrian Sauer *Foto Arbeiten*