

# mianki

PRESS RELEASE / 2017 January

## Jakob Kupfer – contempo

From January 27th to March 18th 2017, mianki.Gallery will be exhibiting new work by Jakob Kupfer in the solo exhibition, "contempo".

contempo (made-up word) stands for: in time, with the times, over time, transient, time-based, delivered over time.

Jakob Kupfer's core medium and theme is light and the question as to how light itself might be presented to artistic effect. Increasingly clearly, a further theme is becoming noticeable, even visible, in his work ... time. With light and time, Kupfer combines two levels, which do not at first seem tangible to us. Devoid of matter. Volatile. Light and time stand symbolically for a moment, a blink of the eye.

The characteristic abstractness of light is of central importance to Jakob Kupfer. In his works, he forms from light a resonance space in which we can experience what is happening with our perception, as soon as we engage ourselves with the flow of light without explanatory contours. This is barely engaged in, and already an infinite number of images are given rise to, always new, always different. Just as they come into existence, the images again vanish. In this way, the medium of light - as is only otherwise the case with music - offers Kupfer the opportunity to lend a further dimension to the classic image, as a spatial work: time.

And time doesn't pass. It arises constantly, forms moments of the present. How do we deal with these fleeting moments? This moment in which time is born and changes? Moments of the present, are hardly perceived and then are already in the past and therefore memories.

One experience we can gain from this is to learn to recognise and appreciate the impermanence and uncertainty as good things. Perhaps, we open up our awareness of the present, free to think, feel, perceive, without fixed images and statements.

"The positive present is the smallest and most fleeting point; by becoming aware of the present, it is already over, the awareness of the enjoyment always lies in the memory." (Karoline Friederike Louise Maximiliane von Günderrode, 1780 - 1806)

"Whatever we are unable to detect is something that we are allowed to conceive anew. Wherever we no longer have to understand is the point where freedom of imagination starts." (Jakob Kupfer)

Exhibition: **contempo**  
Light images, light objects, installations, FADES, Kinetic light objects

Artist: **Jakob Kupfer**

Opening: Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 7-11pm

Guided tour: 7.30 pm and 9 pm (in German)

Opening times: January 27th – March 18th, 2017 | Tue-Fri 3 – 7 pm | Sat 11 am – 4 pm

Place: mianki. Gallery, Kalckreuthstr. 15, 10777 Berlin

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These photo paintings, as snapshots of the ever-changing light flux, render visible fantasy worlds painted from light. Kupfer sees these works – although created in a photographic manner – as paintings; unique works of pigment and wax on paper.

With the FADES, Jakob Kupfer – an individual as vague as his own artwork – goes one step further into questioning our vision. The digital originals transcend the frozen moments of the photo paintings into another, parallel time. Kupfer's FADES are constantly transforming yet so subtly, that they remove any safe ground of vision: The one clear and constant work, being the classic motion picture. The FADES trickle through our view like sand between our fingers. They are as surprising as they are amazing. These are images, whose transformation you are determined to uncover. Yet they celebrate this change with such pleasure that it is impossible to capture it. Kupfer considers his FADES, although created digitally, as being individual paintings; as being digital originals.

Kupfer's images demand an active kind of vision on our part, which we thought we had long since forgotten, and looking at anything in the manner that Kupfer demands of us imperiously calls for a privilege that we otherwise only rarely afford ourselves. To look so says little about what is depicted, but much of the beholder. You are almost tempted to talk of therapeutic viewing, comparing the photographs with Rorschach tables – if someone aside from the viewer were to care to interpret the results, he could test performance in whatsoever manner. Yet nothing like this is actually the case. The landscapes of light offer themselves as unique vehicles of joy, fantasy and sensuality. They demand nothing, but open the gateway to the very echo of existential experience: security, love, sadness, longing, desires, and yes, even fears all come alive in these photographs – like everywhere else, whenever we dare to venture into new territory.

CV – Jakob Kupfer

The consistent implementation of his artistic approach forces the person behind it, into absolute absence, represented by the pseudonym »Jakob Kupfer«. Neither a seemingly recognizable image content, yet a »real« person with all resulting interpretations shall affect the free reflection and unlimited freedom of imagination of the beholder.

The following pictures are available in the appendix:

### **Jakob Kupfer, Lichtbild # 915, 2016**

Pigmentdruck, Wachs auf Papier, Aludibond 102 x 100 cm

Foto: Jakob Kupfer

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## Jakob Kupfer

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### Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 contempo, mianki.Gallery, Berlin  
2015 LICHTSPIEL, mianki.Gallery, Berlin  
2014 Emotions - Kunst aus Licht und Duft, Installation von Jakob Kupfer & Christophe Laudamiel, Schloss Wannsee, Berlin  
FADE - temporäre Lichtkunstinstallation in der Kartäuserkirche  
Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg  
EMOTIONS - Kunst aus Licht und Duft, Jakob Kupfer & Christophe Laudamiel, mianki.Gallery, Berlin  
2013 FADE, temporäre Lichtkunstinstallation, LED-Fassade der o2 World Berlin, o2 World, Berlin  
Ich sehe was, was Du nicht siehst, mianki.Gallery, Berlin  
2011 Plastiken – Tina Heuter & Jakob Kupfer – Lichtbilder, mianki.Gallery, Berlin

### Group Exhibitions / Fair

- 2016 POSITIONS BERLIN 2016, mianki.Gallery, Berlin  
gleich-anders #2, mianki.Gallery, Berlin  
Ausstellung zum 4. Internationalen Evard-Preis, Kunsthalle Messmer, Riegel am Kaiserstuhl  
2015 Benefizauktion zugunsten der Telefonseelsorge Berlin, mianki.Gallery, Berlin, und Berlinische Galerie, Berlin  
Proud Collector Edition#3, The Grand, Berlin  
POSITIONS BERLIN 2015, Sonderausstellung zur Benefiz-Kunstauktion 2015, Telefonseelsorge Berlin  
FADE - Kunstinstallation im Kreativquartier Alter Schlachthof zur Kunst- und Kulturacht 2015, Karlsruhe  
2014 Keine Systeme, Gastausstellung der BlackBox Aarau, Forum Schlossplatz Aarau, Schweiz  
2013 Benefizauktion zugunsten der Telefonseelsorge Berlin, mianki.Gallery, Berlin, und Berlinische Galerie, Berlin  
POSITIONS BERLIN 2013, Sonderausstellung zur Benefiz-Kunstauktion 2013, Telefonseelsorge Berlin  
2012 Benefizauktion zugunsten der Telefonseelsorge Berlin, mianki.Gallery, Berlin, und Berlinische Galerie, Berlin  
gleich - anders – Gruppenausstellung, mianki.Gallery, Berlin  
2011 Benefizauktion zugunsten der Telefonseelsorge Berlin, mianki.Gallery, Berlin, und Berlinische Galerie, Berlin  
2010 Benefizauktion zugunsten der Telefonseelsorge Berlin, mianki.Gallery, Berlin, und Berlinische Galerie, Berlin

### Publications

- 2012 Jakob Kupfer – LICHTBILDER

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## **mianki.Gallery**

We founded the gallery in the summer of 2008 in Berlin-Schöneberg. We saw the chance here to get in touch with an open-minded public and interest them in the works of young and innovative artists. Schöneberg has a one hundred year old tradition of artistic creation, and it is a district with a growing number of galleries.

The artists represented by mianki. Gallery cannot easily be categorized. And how could one do so, bearing in mind that it is their innovative energy that characterizes them! As a consequence, the gallery program is continuously moving ahead.

And yet, what unites the different artists is their approach to space. Reaching out of the frame, drifting off the wall, drawing into the space. Courting light, trapping it, throwing illusions into the showroom.

The artists' choice of special materials supports their staging of space. It allows for an unusual play with space through reflection. The artists are less interested in celebrating their extraordinary working materials. They take them for granted. But the use of materials such as glue, concrete, silk, leaves or porcelain enables the beholder to perceive the enclosed space or the object in sight in a unique way.

mianki. Gallery represents following artists:

Silke Katharina Hahn  
HALFA  
Tina Heuter  
Claudia Kallscheuer  
Jakob Kupfer  
Christophe Laudamiel  
Anna Matola  
Ev Pommer  
Katharina Schnitzler  
Michael Schuster  
Constanze Vogt

### **Press**

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