

GALERIE
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MATHIAS KESSLER
WASTED SUNSET

Exhibition catalog





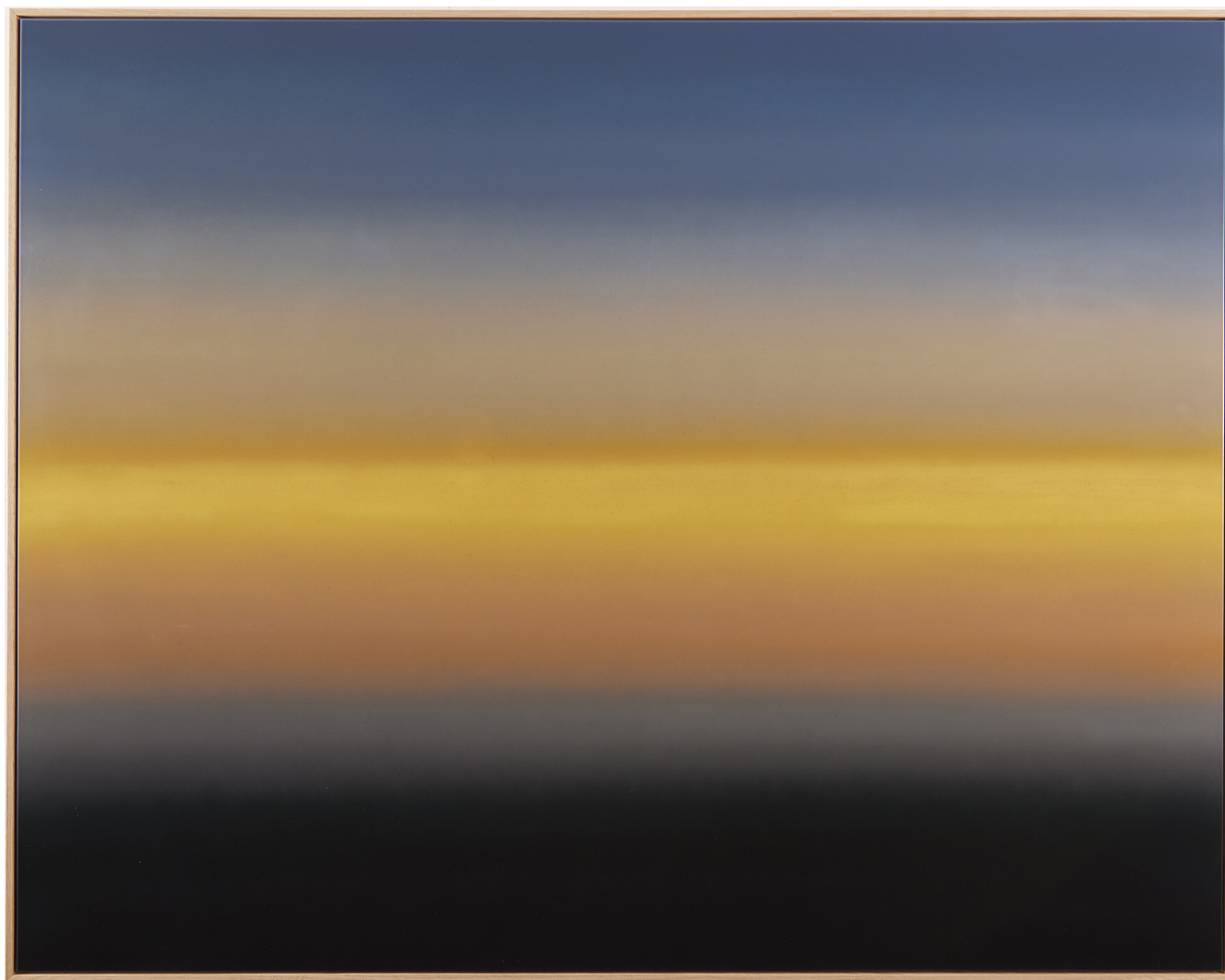
MATHIAS KESSLER

WASTED SUNSET

24 MARCH 2023 — 13 MAY 2023



In Mathias Kessler's fifth solo exhibition in our gallery, works from different groups of works are combined in such a way that new curatorial contexts emerge. The guiding and unifying theme of the exhibition is our complex relationship to nature and natural phenomena. An important goal of the exhibition is therefore to open up new, unexpected perspectives on nature and its cultural appropriation.



Mathias Kessler
The Sea, 7 Jul 2017, 2023
Gradient painting, Airbrush on alu dibond, oak frame
105 x 128 cm



Mathias Kessler

The Mill, 2023

Printed on cotton paper, burned with laser cutter, framed in
walnut frame with passepartout, unique piece

40 x 60 cm

LIGHT PHENOMENA

One of the focal points of the exhibition is the new works from his LIGHT PHENOMENA series. These were created especially for this exhibition. These rather meditative works also show his analytical view of nature. All the paintings are based on photographic images of storms, fog and sunsets. They were transformed into paintings with spray paint applied in fine gradients of color. With these images, reminiscent of color surface painting, Kessler captures a light phenomenon that has only existed since industrialization. The colorfulness of the light phenomena in the sky has changed with increasing air pollution. The special aesthetic of romantic sunsets or foggy landscapes is only created by the dirt particles. While in his earlier works he always uses photographs of the light phenomena, more recently he has also used paintings by artists such as Claude Monet or Rembrandt as the basis for his pictures, which are reminiscent of color field painting.

These paintings are complemented by works on paper in which he uses laser technology to partially destroy images of historical paintings while at the same time opening up new ways of looking at them. Thus, at first glance, the work THE MILL ON FIRE appears to be a simple reproduction of Rembrandt von Rijn's painting THE MILL. But Kessler makes an important manipulation: The sky and the reflecting water no longer appear in a light shade of blue-they are burned out, colorless. The work thus joins a series in which Kessler burns out sky surfaces and reflective surfaces with lasers. By burning the surfaces, Kessler refers to the special relationship between modernity, the processes it sets in motion, and celestial phenomena. The more progress is made, the more it affects air quality and, in turn, the health of many people and the Earth's ecosystems. One indicator of advancing air pollution is the bright, aesthetic colors of the sky. By erasing the sky from the picture through the deliberate use of fire, Kessler puts this into aesthetic context and questions the sacrifices we make for the supposed progress of our society.

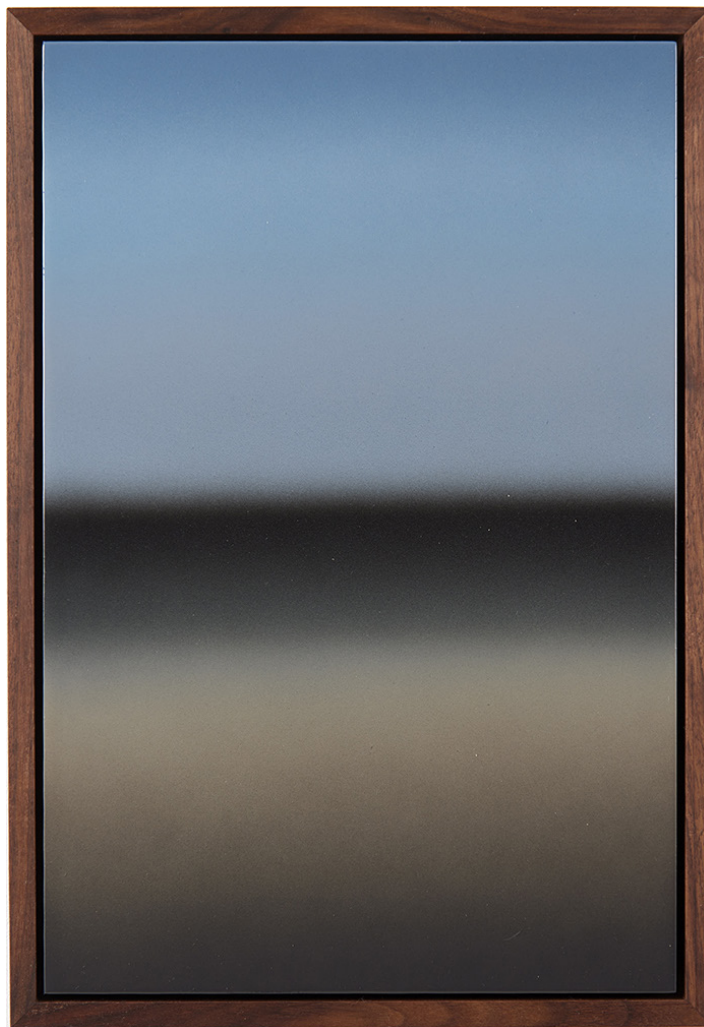




Mathias Kessler
Saraota, March 2022 03 21, 8.20 p, 2023
Gradient painting, Airbrush on alu dibond, oak frame
91 x 66.5 cm



Mathias Kessler
Athens, New York, October 13, 2016, 15.56, 2023
Gradient painting, Airbrush on alu dibond, oak frame
70 x 50 cm



Mathias Kessler
La vhiesa dei Tornetti, 2023
Gradient painting, Airbrush on alu dibond, oak frame
36.5 x 24.4 cm





Mathias Kessler
Caspar David Friedrich -Greifswald in Moonlight, 2023
Printed on cotton paper, burned with laswer cutter, framed in wal-
nut frame with passepartout, unique piece
30 x 45.5 cm



Mathias Kessler
Greifswald im Mondlicht (after Caspar David Friedrich) 2023,
Gradient painting, Airbrush on alu dibond, framed
22.5 x 30.5 cm



Mathias Kessler
Shipping by a Breakwater (after J.M.W. Turner) I, 2023
Gradient painting, Airbrush on alu dibond, framed
30.2 x 19.4 cm



Mathias Kessler
Racehorses in a Landscape (after Degas), 2023
Gradient painting, Airbrush on alu dibond, walnut frame
47.9 x 62.9 cm

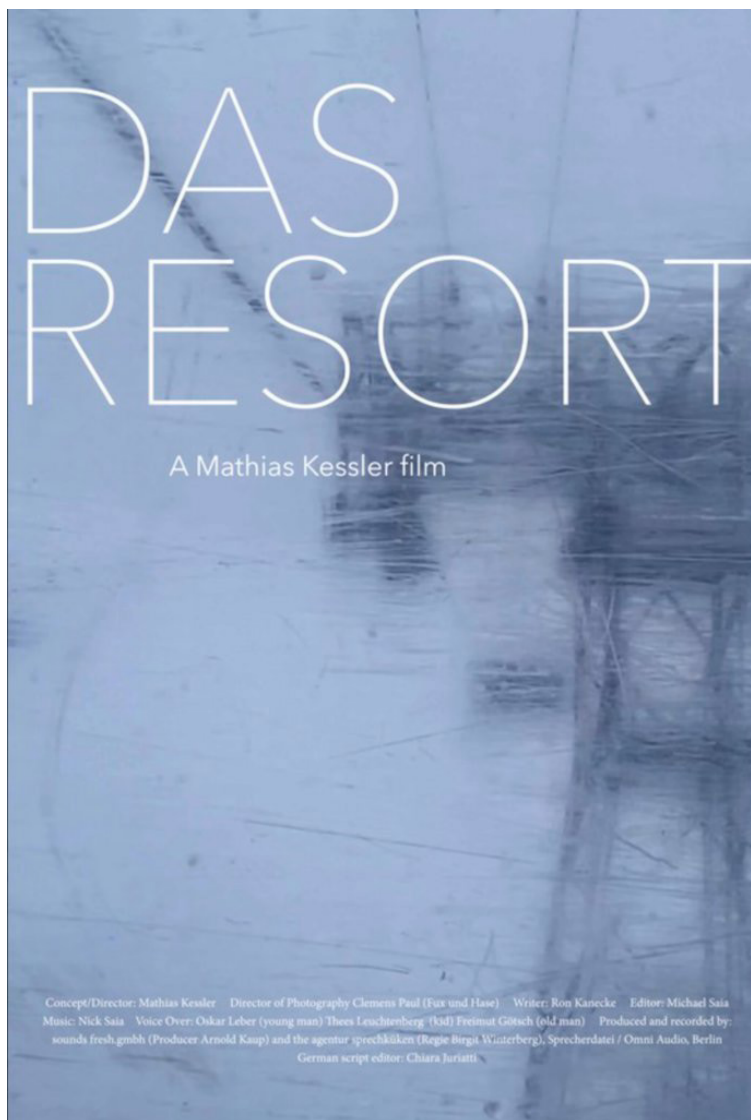
SHORT FILM

22 Minutes 2 Seconds

The second focus of the exhibition is the short film DAS RESORT which Mathias Kessler directed under the impression of the first Covid-19 lockdown,. Based on a screenplay by Ron Kanecke, translated into German by Chiara Juriatti, the film tells the story of the nameless narrator's search for his father in a world where a virus has silenced people. Against the backdrop of a nameless mountain village, a narrative unfolds beyond linear time, along memories of childhood, the father, and the world before and after the catastrophe. Wide, striking landscape shots of lonely mountain huts, snowy ski pistes, and abandoned mountain villages reveal a haunting, dystopian void that emphasizes the absence of humanity. Kessler's award-winning film provokes thought about man's inescapable impact on nature and the state of a society in which technological progress becomes an end in itself. His theses are forceful: the idea of a return to pristine nature through human withdrawal is naive. Humans have already left their traces so extensively that even the most deserted places are marked by them. Finally, our social development towards more and more technical progress obscures the view of what would actually be necessary for human and non-human well-being. In addition to the film, there are also some film stills to see in the exhibition.

Since its release, "The Resort" has been nominated for and won several awards. To date, the film has received 14 awards. Among others, the film was selected for the Seattle Film Festival (September 30, 2022) and the Amsterdam Lift-Off Film Festival (October 01, 2023). The film was a semi-finalist at the Berlin Shorts Awards (October 21, 2022), the Dumbo Film Festival in New York (March 9, 2023), and the Cannes Short Film Festival (October 2022), as well as a finalist at NewFilmmakers NY (January 04, 2023). The film also won awards at the Phoenix Shorts (October 28, 2022), the Independent Shorts Awards, Los Angeles (November 12, 2022) and the Indie Film Fest in the Experimental Short Film category, Phoenix (November 3, 2022).





Mathias Kessler
Das Resort - A Mathias Kessler film, 2022
Sci-Fi, short, horror, experimental, art house
22 minutes 2 seconds





Mathias Kessler
Das Resort-Panorama-427, 2023
Inkjet print mounted on Dibond with walnut frame and vinyl
lettering on nonreflective gallery plexi
60 x 160 cm
Edition of 6



Mathias Kessler
Das Resort-Panorama-401, 2023
Inkjet print mounted on Dibond with walnut frame and vinyl
lettering on nonreflective gallery plexi
60 x 160 cm



Mathias Kessler
 Der Himmel auf Erden gibt es nicht und Träume
 werden schon gar nicht wahr.
 Das Resort, Still Z_01 Zug, 2022
 C-Print, walnut frame, vinyl typo on museum glass,
 framed
 33 x 50 cm



Mathias Kessler
 Jetzt bin ich hier. Der Zufluchtsort. Unser Schloss.
 Das Resort, Still AP_02, Arlberg Pass, 2022
 C-Print, walnut frame, vinyl typo on museum glass,
 framed
 33 x 50 cm



Mathias Kessler
 Ich träume wieder. Eigentlich hatte ich es schon vor
 langer Zeit aufgegeben.
 Das Resort, Still AP_03, Arlberg Pass, 2022
 C-Print, walnut frame, vinyl typo on museum glass,
 framed
 33 x 50 cm

DAS EISMEER VR RELOADED

Charcoal drawings are also part of the exhibition, relating to a project by Mathias Kessler on climate research. Using climate data from the last 200 years, Kessler has created the 3D animated installation DAS EISMEER VR RELOADED. Here, Caspar David Friedrich's famous sea of ice from 1824 is animated through two hundred years of climate change. In compressed form, the melting of the ice can be experienced, which can be realistically constructed through the collected data. The charcoal drawings serve as a visual reference to the animation at different points in time. What the black and white drawing already suggests in its monotony becomes clear through the steady melting of the ice: the failed hope in the form of the capsized ship no longer stands for the power of nature, but for its decay.





Mathias Kessler
Das Eismeer 1950, 2023
Characool on standard graphic paper
100 x 130 cm



Mathias Kessler
Das Eismeer 2005, 2023
Characoal on standard graphic paper
70 x 100 cm

Mathias Kessler was born 1968 in Kempten, Austria.

He lives and works in New York and Frankfurt am Main.

Education:

MFA Art Practice: Low Residency Program at School of Visual Arts, New York

2009 National Scholarship for Photography, Vienna, Austria

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2023 Wasted Sunset, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- 2021 Fragile Creation, Dom Museum, Wien
- 2019 Forever and Sunsmell, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- 2018 Staging Nature, Kirchner Museum, Davos, Switzerland
- 2017 Artifacts & Other Errors of Perception, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Boulder
Simulacrum - Virtual Worlds, Palmengarten, Frankfurt
- 2016 Between Image and Matter: (The Camera as a Producer), Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt
California Dreamin, Site Lab (Art Prize), Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2015 Here and Now!, Kunsthalle Rotterdam, Netherlands
California Dreaming, Rise Project, London, UK
Social Glitch, Radikale Ästhetik und die Konsequenzen extremer Ereignisse, Ausstellungsprojekt, Kunstraum Niederösterreich, Wien
California Dreaming, Rise Projects, 2 Lansdowne Rise, London, UK
Landscape in Motion Cinematic Visions of an Uncertain Tomorrow, Kunsthau Graz, Austria
- 2013 Social Landscape", Volta Art-fair, New York
"Construction of Landscape", FiFi Project, Monterrey, Mexico
"in Cold Blood," Y Gallery, New York City (two man show with Andrea Galvani)
- 2012 From Copernicus to Cyberspace, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
After Sublimity, FiFi projects, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2011 I'll Survive, Rosphoto (Nat. Museum for Photography), St. Petersburg, Russia
After Nature, GL Holtegaard Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark

- 2011 Рокфото, The State Russian Centre of Photography, St. Petersburg, Russia
- 2010 The Taste of Discovery, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt am Main, Germany Nowhere to be found, Volta art fair, New York City
 Natural Fictions, Brotfabrik Berlin, Germany
 The Taste of Discovery, ME Contemporary Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2009 The Taste of Discovery, Kunstraum Dornbirn, Austria
- 2008 The Taste of Discovery, habres+partner, Vienna, Austria
- 2007 Kunst Zuerich 07, Artfair, habres+partner, Zürich, Switzerland
 The end of the world..., Visual Drugs, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2006 Secluded Nights, Winkleman / Plus Ultra Gallery, New York, NY USA
- 2005 Secluded Nights, habres+partner, Vienna, Austria
- 2004 Secluded Nights, 2300 Studio/Gallery, LLC, Miami Design District, Florida
 I love Paradise, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Mexico ,Collaboration with Johan Grimonprez
 Looking for Alfred, The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK
- 2003 I love Paradise (performance), Muestra Art Fair, Mexico City, Mexico
 I love Paradise (performance), Odeonsplatz / U-Bahnstation, Munich, Germany a certain regard, habres+partner, Vienna, Austria
 I love Paradise (performance), Scope Art Fair Miami Beach, USA FL
- 2001 0 Gravity, Onefront Gallery, New York, NY USA
 Chiapas, Galería Emma Molina, Monterrey, Mexico Saatchi & Saatchi, Advertising Headquarters NY, NY USA
- 2000 Net Works, habres+partner, Vienna, Austria
- 1999 Net Works, D 8 Gallery, Linz, Austria

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2022 Some people feel the rain, others get wet, Austrian Culture Institut, London, UK
Planetary Forest. Bringt den Wald in den Garten, Performance and Installation,
Planetary Thinking, Justus-Liebig-Universität, Giessen, Germany
- 2021 Walk the line, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt am Main
- 2020 Essential Reduction, Galerie Heike Strelow und Strelow und Walter Kunst GbR, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt, Germany
Fragile Schöpfung, Dommuseum, Wien
- 2019 Paper Selections, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt, Germany
Inspiration Meisterwerk + Pirating Presence, Museum Villa Rot, Ulm, Germany
- 2018 Big Botany, Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence Kansas
Eiskalt, Eres Stiftung, Munich, Germany
- 2017 Constructing Paradise, Austrian Cultural Forum New York, New York
con • tin • u • ums (time beyond lifetimes), SVA Curatorial Practice, Pfizer Building, New York
Visions of Nature, Kunst Haus Wien, Vienna, Austria
Oh les beaux jours! Biennale 9, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
- 2016 Spring Exhibition 2016, Kunsthall Charlottenburg, Copenhagen, Denmark The Sun Placed in the Abyss,
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio
RE-CODING, Galerie Elisabeth and Klaus Thoman, Vienna, Austria
- 2016 Empire, Dada and current positions in art, Museum Macura, Belgrad, Serbia
The Castle of Perseverance, Crush Curatorial, Sag Harbor, Long Island, NY

- 2015 Wie wir leben (The Way We Live), Kunst Haus Wien, Wien, Austria
- 2014 AUTOIMMUNE, Vohn Gallery, New York
- "[macro]biologies 1: the biosphere," Art Laboratory Berlin, Germany
- "Jenseits der Ansichtskarte. Die Alpen in der Fotografie," Landesmuseum Vorarlberg, Bregenz, Austria
- 2013 "[UN]NATURAL LIMITS", Austrian Cultural Institute New York, New York
- "Comfort Zones", Frontal Lobe Gallery at Bragg's Pie Factory, Phoenix, Arizona
- "Poison Green," Czech Cultural Center New York City, New York
- "No-Men's Land – 7 Positions in Contemporary Fotografie", Aschaffenburg, Germany
- "Hohe Dosis", Fotohof & Atterseehalle, Salzburg, Austria
- "Vom Weggehen und (nicht) Wiederkommen", Kunstforum Montafon, Montafon, Austria
- "Mind the Gap," Radiator Gallery, New York
- "Jenseits der Ansichtskarte. Die Alpen in der Fotografie," Galerie Stihl, Waiblingen, Germany
- "High Water," Spectrum NYC, New York, New York
- 2012 The Nature of Disappearance, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY USA
- Ground Control, Kunsthaus Muerzuschlag, Muerzuschlag, Austria
- Our House, Austrian Cultural Institute, New York, NY, NY USA
- 2011 Lost Paradise, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY USA
- Höhenrausch 2, OK Linz, Linz, Austria
- 2010 Nowhere to be found, Eikon, Vienna, Austria
- Another Green World, Carriage Trade, New York, NY USA
- Above and Beyond, Forum Stadtpark, Graz, Austria

Residencies

London / Fotoapartment, BMUKK (Austrian Ministry of Culture), London, UK, September - November 2017

Artist in Residency, Rise Projects, London, UK, June 2015

Rom / Paliano, Kunst Vorarlberg, Rome, Italy, November 2014

Hatch House, Cape Cod Modern House Trust, Wellfleet, Massachusetts, USA, May 2014

Artist in Residency, Everglades National Park, Florida, USA, December 2013

Hatch House, Cape Cod Modern House Trust, Wellfleet, Massachusetts, USA, May 2013

Land Vorarlberg, Berlin, Germany, October 2012

Collections

Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria, 2015

Museum Vorarlberg, Austria, 2006 and 2012

Colleccion Cisneros, New York, 2001 and 2004

Landesmuseum Linz, Austria, 2011

Illwerke Collection, Austria, 2009

Lectures and Presentations

Korrespondenzen 1, Zentrum für Gegenwartskunst, Graz, Austria, 2022

Conference: Hothouse Archives: Plants, Pods, and Panama Red, School of Visual Arts, November 16–18, 2018

"Nowhere to Be Found," Kuenstlerhaus Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz, Austria, June 2016

"Nowhere to Be Found," Curatorial Practice SVA, New York, March 2016

"Nowhere to Be Found," IFK (International Research Center for Cultural Studies), New York, January 2016

"Nowhere to Be Found," ACFNY, New York, January 2015

"Naturally Hypernatural III. Landscapes in the Anthropocene," Kunsthaus Graz, Austria, June 2015

"BFA Senior Workshop," School of Visual Arts, New York, March 2014

"Landscape and Punishment in the Renaissance," lecture, School of Visual Arts, New York, November 2013

"On Photography," MFA Photography at School of Visual Arts, New York, February 2012

"Are we sawing off the branch we're sitting on? The Place of Nature in the Narrative," panel discussion, Architecture of Modern Culture, Austrian Cultural Institute New York, February 2013

Embodied Fantasies International Conference, School of Visual Arts, 2011, New York, 2011

ARS Electronica, Electro Lobby, Linz, Austria, September 2002

Awards

Selected Awards for the film DAS RESORT (2022)

Seattle Film Festival, September 30th 2022, Selected

Berlin Shorts Awards, October 21st 2022, Semi-Finalist

Phoenix Shorts, October 28th 28th 2022, Winner

The IndieFEST Film Awards, November 1st 2022, Selected

Independent Shorts Awards, LA, November 12th 2022, Winner

NewFilmmakers NY, January 4th 2023, Finalist

Amsterdam Lift-Off Film Festival, October 1st 2023, Selected

Scholarship: MFA Artpractice, School of Visual Arts, New York, 2009

Staatsstipendium fuer Fotografie, Vienna, Austria, 2009



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