



**BJÖRN DRENKWITZ | RED RAIN**

Exhibition catalog

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# **BJÖRN DRENKWITZ I RED RAIN**

17 April – 23 May 2026

Under the title Red Rain, we present his latest series of works, which explore how global developments are reflected in images today. Climate change, technological infrastructure, and political conflicts form a common backdrop. Drenkwitz works with photographic material, screenshots, satellite images, and historical printing techniques. Digital tools and generative AI are part of this process. At the same time, the works reflect on the conditions under which images are created and viewed today.

Images of real events serve as a starting point for many of the works. In the series "Red Rain", Drenkwitz draws on media images of the wildfires of the summer of 2022. Firefighting planes drop red-tinted fire retardant over burning landscapes. Through repeated AI-assisted enlargement of tiny image fragments from these shots, new pictorial surfaces emerge. The original scene dissolves. What remains are large-format images that hover between documentation and painterly visual power.

Other works in the exhibition also navigate the space between real-world events, technical mediation, and artistic transformation. In "Eye of the Storm", satellite images of hurricanes are superimposed in such a way that a calm point forms at the center. Photographs of raised fists from protest movements spanning various decades merge in "Raised Fist" into a shared image of resistance. At the same time, the focus turns to the technical systems that make this image production possible in the first place. Artificial Light explores data centers, whose energy demands are constantly growing due to the use of AI. There, Drenkwitz examines the transitions between natural and artificial light. These light phenomena, too, are in turn digitally interpreted and transformed into new images.

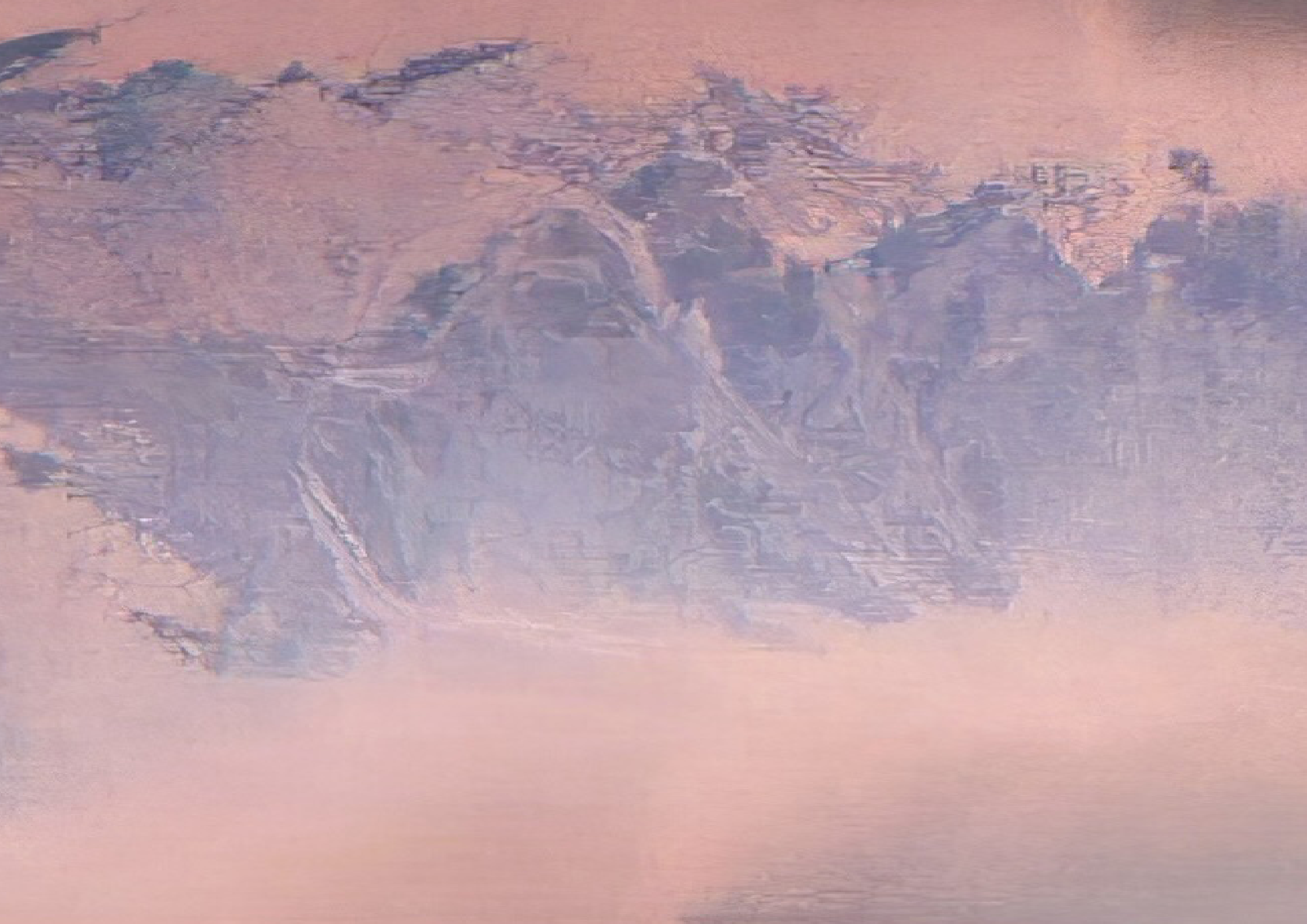
Alongside these digital processes are works that engage more directly with physical materials. The cyanotypes in the "Glaciers" series are created through a direct physical process. Drenkwitz freezes meltwater from a glacier into a block of ice and places it on light-sensitive cyanotype paper. Sunlight exposes the paper, while the melting ice gradually interrupts the process. In doing so, the structure of the ice leaves visible traces in the image. Thus, the work combines a historical photographic process with a material that is itself part of climate change.

Past and Future Forest expands on this approach on a larger scale. The large-format cyanotypes depict dead trees. Windthrow, fires, insect infestations, and drought are increasingly taking their toll on European forests. By translating these scenes into cyanotypes, Drenkwitz captures the appearance of these trees. The images are photographic traces of a forest in transition.

The exhibition Red Rain brings these different approaches together. Documentary images, digital editing, and chemical printing processes intertwine. The works depict natural phenomena, political gestures, and technical infrastructures. At the same time, they raise the question of how such events become visible today and what role images play in this process.

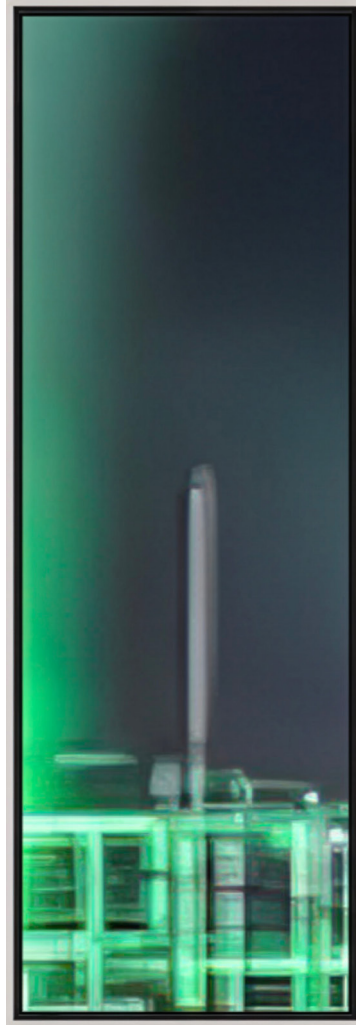
Björn Drenkwitz lives and works in Frankfurt/Main, Germany.







Björn Drenkwitz  
Red Rain LA 3, since 2022  
screenshots modified using generative AI, fine art prints on Epson Fine Art Cotton Textured Bright, framed in  
Halbe-Rahmen, in natural nut wood, Artglass AR 92 and 72  
100 x 100 cm



Björn Drenkwitz

Artificial Light 5, 2025/2026

screenshots modified using generative AI, photo print on 3mm aluminum Dibond, Fuji Crystal Archive matte,

6mm black oak shadow-line frame

150 x 50 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Artificial Light 15, 2025/2026  
screenshots modified using generative AI, photo print on 3mm aluminum Dibond, Fuji Crystal Archive matte,  
6mm black oak shadow-line frame  
150 x 50 cm





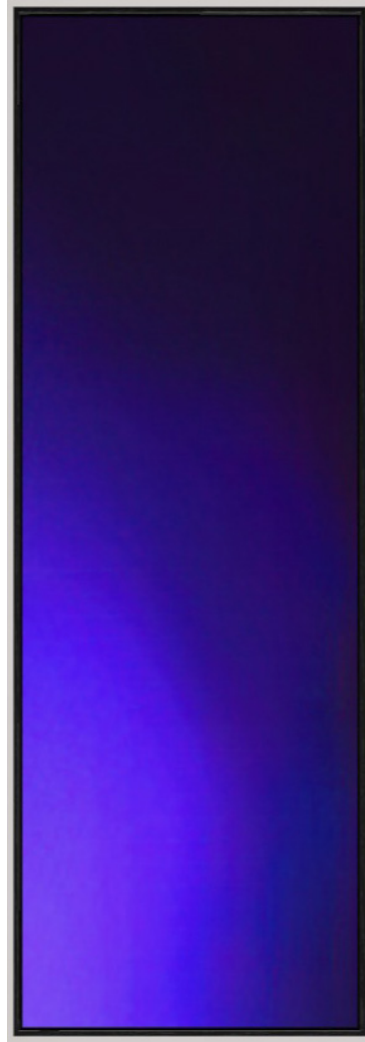
Björn Drenkwitz

Artificial Light 10, 2025/2026

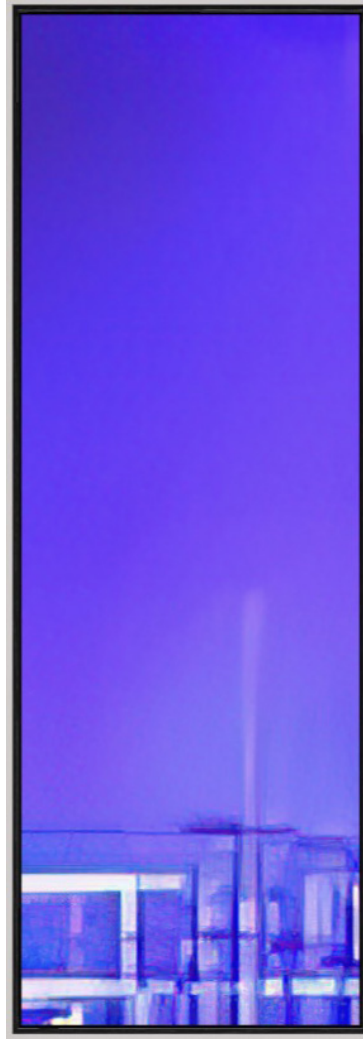
screenshots modified using generative AI, photo print on 3mm aluminum Dibond, Fuji Crystal Archive matte,

6mm black oak shadow-line frame

150 x 50 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Artificial Light 14, 2025/2026  
screenshots modified using generative AI, photo print on 3mm aluminum Dibond, Fuji Crystal Archive matte,  
6mm black oak shadow-line frame  
150 x 50 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Artificial Light 12, 2025/2026  
screenshots modified using generative AI, photo print on 3mm aluminum Dibond, Fuji Crystal Archive matte,  
6mm black oak shadow-line frame  
150 x 50 cm





Björn Drenkwitz  
Red Rain IV, 2022/2026  
Fine art print on Epson Art Cotton Texture Bright, framed  
70 x 70 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Red Rain I, 2022/2026  
Fine art print on Epson Art Cotton Texture Bright, framed  
70 x 70 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Red Rain V, 2022/2026  
Fine art print on Epson Art Cotton Texture Bright, framed  
70 x 70 cm





Björn Drenkwitz  
Past and Future Forrest, 2022  
Large-format cyanotypes of dead trees  
550 x 240 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Raised Fist, 2026

mounted photograph, fine art print on Epson Fine Art Cotton Textured Bright, framed in a natural walnut half-frame, Artglass 72  
100 x 65 cm

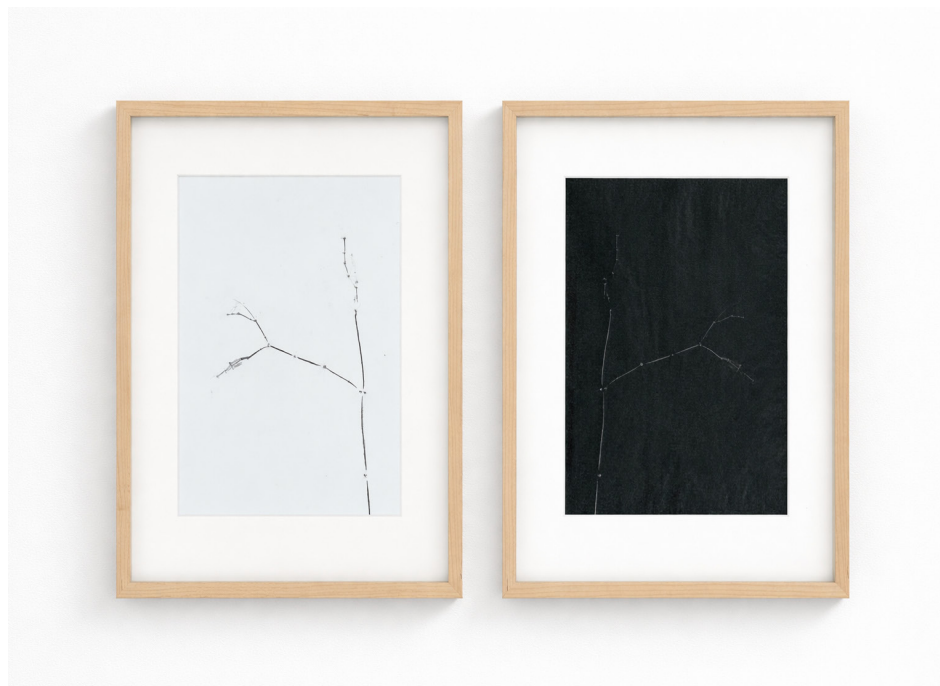




Björn Drenkwitz  
Windumbruch 1, 2025  
Frottage technique using carbon paper on paper, diptych, framed, museumsglass  
29.7 x 21 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Windumbruch 2, 2026  
Frottage technique using carbon paper on paper, diptych, framed, museumsglass  
29.7 x 21 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Windumbruch 3, 2026  
Frottage technique using carbon paper on paper, diptych, framed, museumsglass  
29.7 x 21 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Windumbruch 4, 2026  
Frottage technique using carbon paper on paper, diptych, framed, museumsglass  
29.7 x 21 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Windumbruch 5, 2026  
Frottage technique using carbon paper on paper, diptych, framed, museumsglass  
29.7 x 21 cm



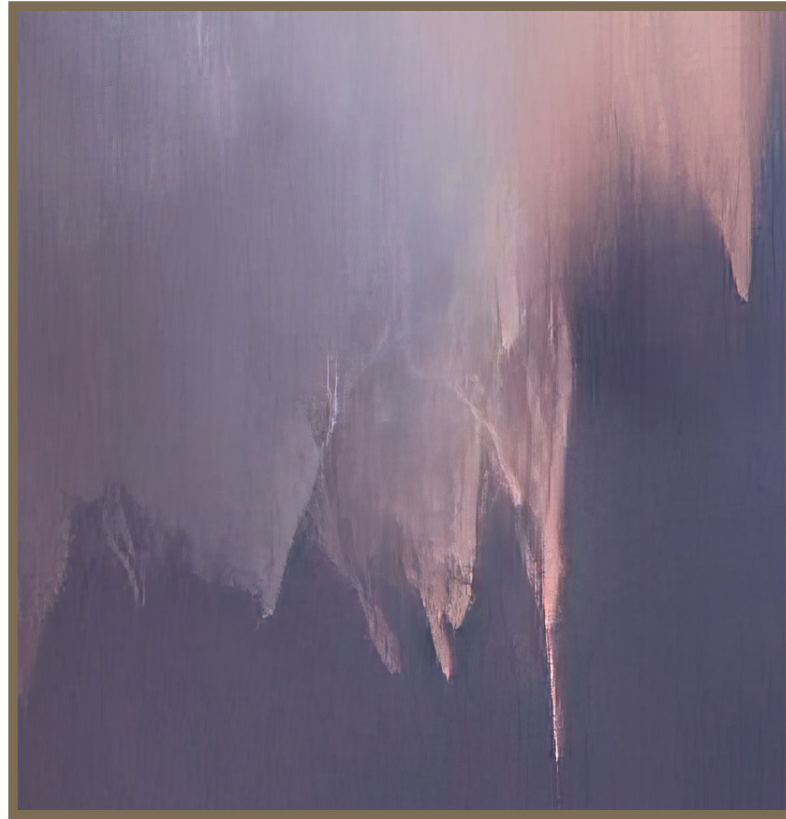
Björn Drenkowitz  
Windumbruch 6, 2026  
Frottage technique using carbon paper on paper, diptych, framed, museumsglass  
29.7 x 21 cm



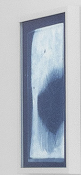
Björn Drenkwitz  
Red Rain II, 2022/2026  
Fine art print on Epson Art Cotton Texture Bright, framed  
70 x 70 cm

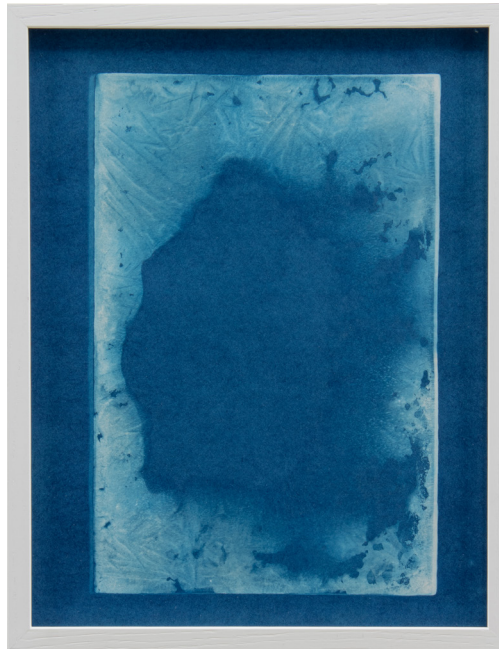


Björn Drenkwitz  
Red Rain LA 2, since 2022  
screenshots modified using generative AI, fine art prints on Epson Fine Art Cotton Textured Bright,  
framed in Halbe-Rahmen, in natural nut wood, Artglass AR 92 and 72  
100 x 100 cm

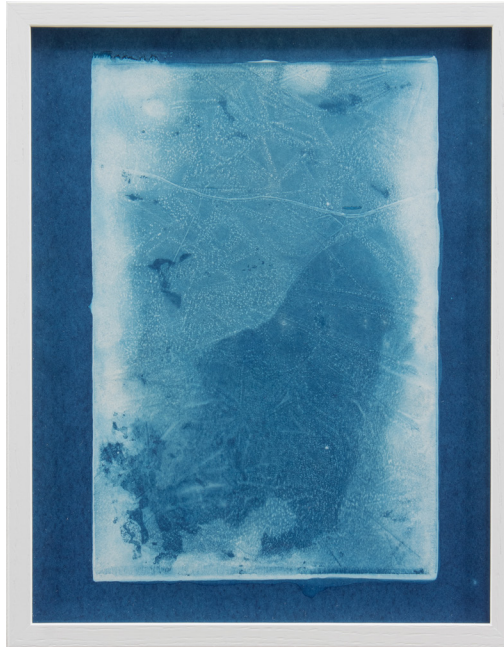


Björn Drenkwitz  
Red Rain LA 1, since 2022  
screenshots modified using generative AI, fine art prints on Epson Fine Art Cotton Textured Bright,  
framed in Halbe-Rahmen, in natural nut wood, Artglass AR 92 and 72  
100 x 100 cm

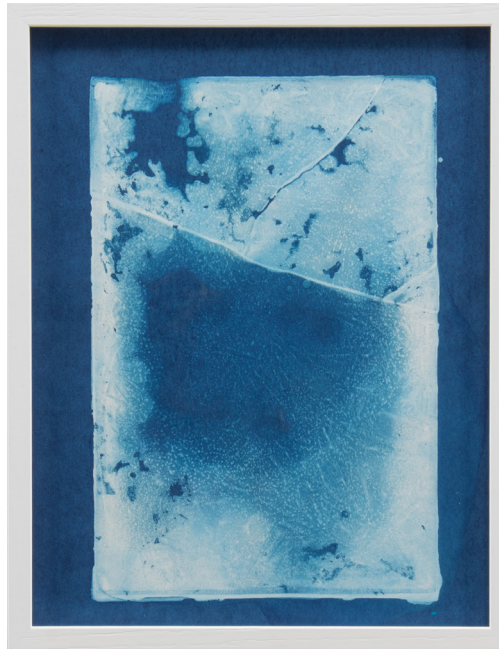




Björn Drenkwitz  
Gletscher (I), 2025/2026  
Cyanotypes, framed in a white oak Halbe-Rahmen with Artglass 92  
34.7 x 27.1 cm



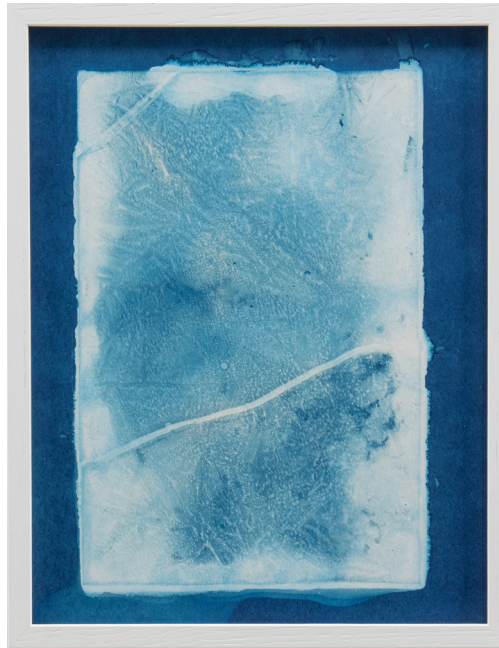
Björn Drenkwitz  
Gletscher (II), 2025/2026  
Cyanotypes, framed in a white oak Halbe-Rahmen with Artglass 92  
34.7 x 27.1 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Gletscher (III), 2025/2026  
Cyanotypes, framed in a white oak Halbe-Rahmen with Artglass 92  
34.7 x 27.1 cm



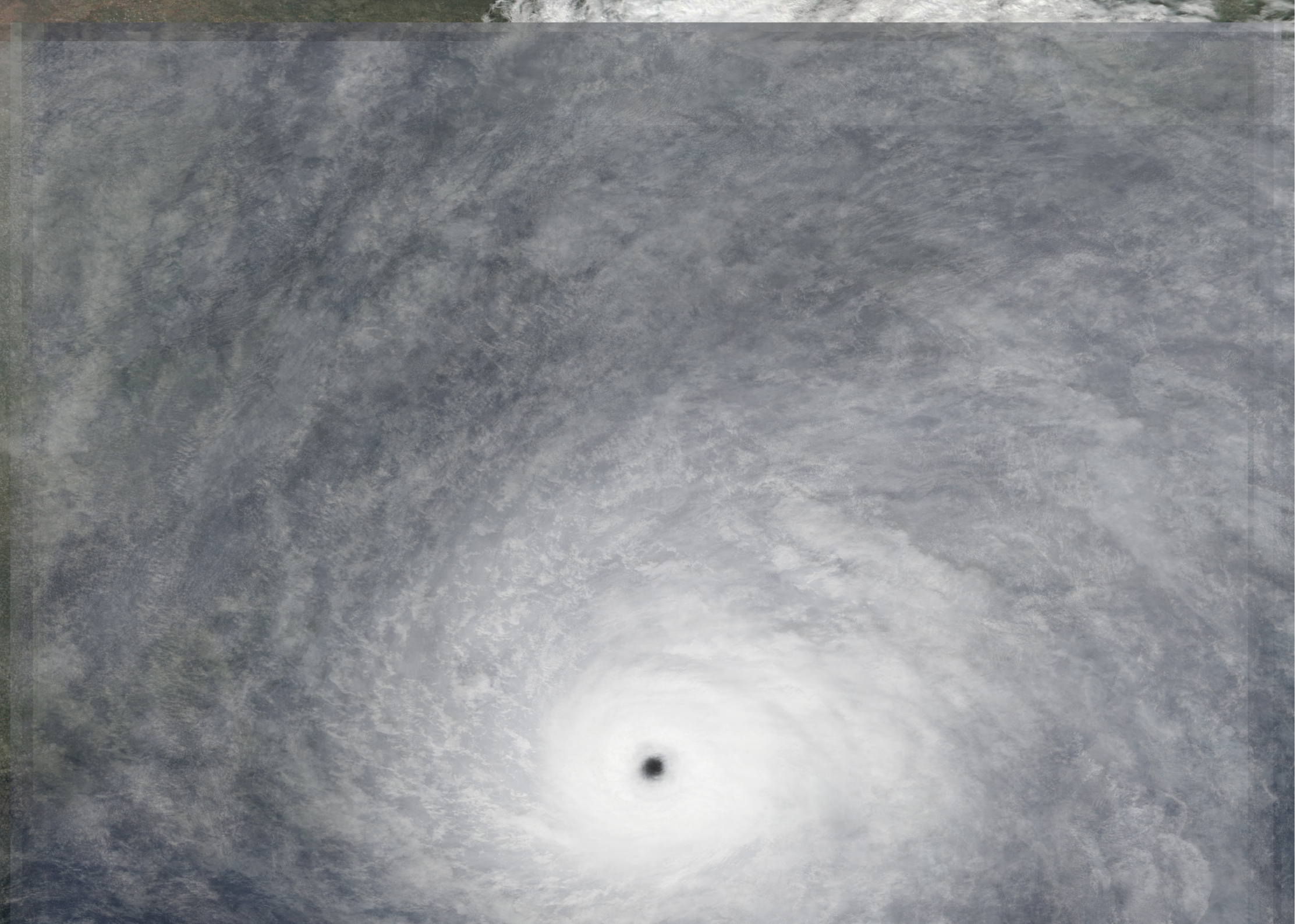
Björn Drenkwitz  
Gletscher (IV), 2025/2026  
Cyanotypes, framed in a white oak Halbe-Rahmen with Artglass 92  
34.7 x 27.1 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Gletscher (V), 2025/2026  
Cyanotypes, framed in a white oak Halbe-Rahmen with Artglass 92  
34.7 x 27.1 cm



Björn Drenkwitz  
Gletscher (VI), 2025/2026  
Cyanotypes, framed in a white oak Halbe-Rahmen with Artglass 92  
34.7 x 27.1 cm





Björn Drenkwitz  
Eye of the storm 2024  
Fine art print on Epson Fine Art Cotton Textured Bright, framed  
66 x 54 cm



## **Björn Drenkwitz**

Born 1978 in Frankfurt/Main, Germany.  
Lives and works in Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

### **Education**

- |             |                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2010        | Meisterschüler, Postgraduate Studies, Kunsthochschule Mainz, DE                                                                         |
| 2003-2009   | Studies of Media Art at Academy of Media Arts, Cologne and<br>Kunsthochschule Mainz, Prof. Dieter Kiessling and Prof. Mischa Kuball, DE |
| 1999 - 2003 | Theatre, Media and Film Theory, Goethe University, Frankfurt/M, DE                                                                      |

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 Findungen, Deutscher Künstlerbund, Berlin
- 2020 Paradise in Transition, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt am Main  
37. Kasseler Dokfest, Kassel  
Screen Time, Galerie Heike Strelow
- 2019 Process Terminus, shortlist Rumänischer Pavillon, 58. Biennale Venedig 2019  
Palata, Opelvillen Rüsselsheim Labor  
Artlake Festival, Brandenburg  
Between the Lines, Galerie Heike Strelow
- 2017 Meaningful Silence (Solo), Gallery Heike Strelow, Frankfurt/M, DE  
Life in the Bubble, Grundemark Nilsson Gallery, Berlin, DE
- 2016 As Time Goes By (Solo), Kunstverein Ludwigshafen a.Rh. DE  
B3 Biennale - Fokus China, Shanghai, CN  
Stadt, Land, Fluss, Gedok, Stuttgart, DE  
Black Paintings, Gallery Heike Strelow, Frankfurt/Main, DE  
Changing Horizons, Windartfestival, Northern Hestia, DE
- 2015 Expanded Senses, B3 Biennale, Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt/M, D  
From the Intangible to the Tangible", Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zürich, CH  
When the bond ist this theatre, Vychodoslovenská Galéria Kosice, SVK

- Videotheque Art Stream, New York City, USA
- Mainzer Ansichten/Views on Mainz, Kunsthalle Mainz, DE
- 2014 The bodies we tell, National Gallery for contemporary art Yaoundé, Cameroon, UK
- 6th Cairo Video Festival, Medrar for contemporary Art, Kairo, EG
- CYNETART Panorama, CYNETART Festival for computer supported art, Dresden, DE
- When the bond ist this theatre, Vychodoslovenská Galéria Kosice, SK
- D´Konschkäst Videoartfestival, Saarlandmuseum Saarbrücken, DE
- 5th Cairo Video Festival Selection, Cairo Opera House, Cairo, EG
- Deltabeben, Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen a. R., DE
- About Time, basis Frankfurt/Main, DE
- 2013 Matters of Method, Galeriile Fundatiei Regale, Iasi, RO
- extra - experimental trails, D21, Leipzig, DE
- Videoartfestival D´Konschkäscht, TUFA, Trier, DE
- Kunstgeschichten im steinernen Haus / Art Slam, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt/Main, DE
- I could never do like you do, Blinkvideo, DE
- Flimmer, basis Frankfurt/Main, DE
- 5th Cairo Video Festival, Medrar for Contemporary Art, Cairo, EG
- 2012 Horizontal, Society for Art and Design, Bonn, DE
- Night of voices, Soundtrck Cologne, House of architecture, Cologne, DE
- Southern Acres curated by Markus Lepper, basis Frankfurt/Main, DE
- The Way Forward, The Cutting Room, Nottingham /GB

- Art in Motion, Long Night of the Museums, Frankfurt/Main, DE
- 2011 Echoraum - Transformations, Bonn, Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, DE  
Annual Exhibition juried by Gary Hill, Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, USA  
Mobilise, curated by Dirck Möllmann, with Tacita Dean, Friedrich von Borries a.o.  
Municipal Gallery, Nordhorn, DE  
Artist help Artists, with Hermann Nitsch, Yoko Ono, Tobias Rehberger, a.o. Museum for applied arts, Frankfurt/  
Main, DE  
Bring your own shadow, Caos Gallery, Venice, IT  
Performing moving pictures“, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt/Main, DE  
54. Festival for Young Art, Beijing, CN  
Björn Drenkwitz - ∞, 1822 Forum Frankfurt/Main, DE  
AUP, Kopfbau, Basels, CH  
Emy-Roeder-Preis 2011, Kunstverein Ludwigshafen a.Rh. DE
- 2010 PLATEAUX – new positions in international performing arts, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt/Main, DE  
Regionale, with Götz Diergarten, Andreas Lorenschat, a.o. Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen a. Rh. DE  
Frames from the Edge, Gallery Marion Scharmann, Cologne, DE  
Luminale, Frankfurt/Main, DE  
The slowness of seeing, curated by Danièle Perrier, Gallery Bassi, Remagen, DE
- 2009 Full House, Satellit, Gallery Anita Beckers, Frankfurt/Main, DE  
Videonale Interventions Videonale 12, Museum of Arts Bonn, DE

- 2008 Emy-Roeder-Price 2008, Kunstverein Ludwigshafen a.Rh. DE  
Nightwatch, Long Night of the Museums, Mainz, DE  
Open Doors, basis e.V. Frankfurt/Main, DE
- 2007 strom.1, Toll Harbour, Mainz, DE
- 2006 Klasse/Atelier, House of Arts, Brno, CZ  
Klasse/Atelier, Kunstverein Ludwigshafen a.Rh. DE
- 2004 Kunst-Licht, E-Werk / Halls for Art, Freiburg, DE

## Grants

- 2016 Catalogue grant of the Cultural Office Frankfurt, DE
- 2014 Project grant of the Ministry for Education, Science and Culture of the county Rhineland-Palatinate, DE
- 2013 Working grant Stiftung Kunstfonds, DE  
Catalogue grant of the Hessian Ministry for Arts and Science, DE  
Catalogue grant of the Cultural Office Frankfurt/Main, DE
- 2012 Artist in Residence Stipendium, MPRA, Posen, PL
- 2011 Emy-Roeder Price of the County Rhineland-Palatinate, DE  
Catalogue- and Exhibition Grant, 1822-Foundation, Frankfurt/Main, DE
- 2009 Graduate stipend, Kunsthochschule Mainz, DE
- 2006 Project Grant, Cultural Office, City of Frankfurt/Main, DE

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