

“THE BEAUTY OF THE UNIMPOSING - ABSTRACT CITYSCAPES”.

To document or display urban environments, has a century old tradition in painting. The Berlin based artist Martin Leuze transports that genre into the here and now. But by doing so, he is focusing on the modern living space of today's metropolises.

The project „BERLIN - TOKYO: an abstract inventory“ is focusing on the architecture of both metropolises, which share a history of regeneration and reconstruction out of the ruins of the war.

Berlin has risen from the ruins to become a playground for artists, musicians, and alternative lifestyles. Tokyo is today a leading city in commerce, design, and technology.

While German building laws are defined by regulations and the desire for a homogeneous appearance Tokyo seems to be refreshing unregulated. The predominant capriciousness and singularity of the houses regarding materials, colors, floor-space index, width or height is surprising and inspiring. But also Berlin has developed an impressive diversity of different architectural styles due to the different architectural approaches in East and West and also through the ongoing construction mania since the reunification.

For Martin Leuze, modern cities are like walkable galleries, full of impressive structures, forms and random arrangements of architecture, light and shadows.

Day by day people rush through their world, mostly in a hurry to get from A to B as fast as possible. By doing so, the visual potential which is hiding in the ordinary and banal around them, is mostly overlooked. But according to Leuze's opinion, the city deserves a more detailed observation; a closer look on structures and forms, a quick backpedalling if something in the corner of the eye attracts our attention.

In his work, Martin Leuze tries to single these moments out of the mass; a visual-aesthetic interpretation and documentation of urban architectural living space.

His pictures following predominantly a geometric and mostly deserted visual language; strongly reduced cutouts of the reality around us. He tries to **break** the established perception and a refocusing on the alleged unimposing; a decelerated counter draft in this Era of omnipresent visual overkill.

The exhibition "BERLIN - TOKYO: an abstract inventory" is part of this longterm project and interprets these two completely different metropolises through reduced cut-outs of alleged banalities.

In the picture pairs these two cities create a dialog between each other. Question hereby would be, if a photographic reduction of two geographically and culturally different living spaces will bring them closer together and if - at least visually - differences between both areas will be overcome.

For Leuze one part of this global project is to discover visual similarities worldwide and to bring them together under one common context, through his connecting visual language.