

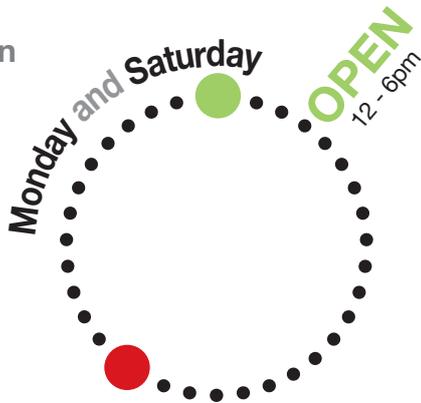
how to find us



AND eventSpace has been re-furbished and is fully accessible. The space runs a programme of visual arts events. For more information about viewing times and our activities please get in touch with us ...

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fragments
futures
absence
and
the past

Silke Helmerdig

presents works
on the occasion of her PhD viva

28th and 30th March 2015

Opening times
Monday and Saturday
12^{pm} - 6^{pm} or by appointment



eventSpace





Fragments, futures, absence and the past

Photographs are taken in a fraction of time, which is always located in the past to the moment when the picture is viewed. The more unspecified time and place in which the image was taken, is, the less the viewer can relate to the situation represented. Photography, although assigned to the depiction of a visible physical reality, has the capacity to show the present and the absent alike. The absent represents essentially something that must have been present in a former time and which contains a potential return.

From the fragmentary moment of the present one can look backwards to a seemingly determined narrative of the past and forwards to undetermined narratives of possible futures.

Photography's important quality lies hidden in the invisible, in that what has to be seen and read by the literate viewer. Walter Benjamin predicted that "the illiteracy of the future will be ignorance not of reading or writing, but of photography." The photographer is not just seen as keeper of the past, but following Benjamin's concept of entanglement of past, present and future, also as foreboder of the future. For Ernst Bloch, anticipation is an advantageous driving force of a society. Artworks offer a form of utopia that is not truly expected to turn into existence. Photographs can be seen as carrying the potential for what is not yet. They have no need to be connected to the real. They can be expressions of possible futures. In Silke Helmerdig's artworks the viewer finds a promise of potential futures in photographs of an unspecified past.

from the series: Fragments of past futures

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SILKE HELMERDIG current work

and