

# KLEINE HUMBOLDT GALERIE

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## SEEING THINGS

**Contemporary Art at Lichthof, Humboldt University**

**Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin**

**Opening Tuesday, June 28, 2011, 7 – 10 p.m.**

**Duration of Exhibition until July 15, 2011, Opening hours: Wed - Fri, 12 – 6 p.m.**

### Press Release

„We ought to talk less and draw more“, Goethe once suggested to his friend Johannes Daniel Falk. In his enthusiasm for the visual sense he promptly decided to break with the habit of speech altogether, in order to, “like nature, communicate everything ... in sketches.” Images apparently promised to be less ambiguous, more precise and catchy. In contrast to text, they can be grasped at a glance – the famous *coup d’œil*. This may explain why students even today encounter stylized images in every corner, be it in lecture halls, textbooks, or laboratories, meant to introduce them to the “thought collective” of their particular discipline.

The exhibition SEEING THINGS examines scientific images from the perspective of contemporary art. It shows works by artists who have appropriated scientific techniques of “visualizing the invisible” to record aspects of reality otherwise neglected by conventional science. In addition to this, works are also presented that question the supposed “objectivity” of the scientific image, hence developing the sort of theoretical critique that is still commonly disregarded by the scientific community itself.

In 1920 Paul Klee famously stated that “art does not reproduce the visible; rather, it makes visible.” The same idea can be applied to science: A naturalistic rendering barely holds any insight. Only by means of abstraction, typification or characterization can specific features, inherent functions and relations be clarified – one need only think of taxonomical or encyclopedic illustrations. Scientific images are never more than theory-laden *approaches* to nature. What already holds true for the visible becomes even more relevant with regard to the invisible, the microscopic, distant, abstract, or procedural: The “thing itself” is diluted by illustrative conventions, technical artifacts, and ideological judgment; in other words, by fiction.

The artistic works in this exhibition maneuver between the attempt to achieve an objective cartography of the real and its individual interpretation – just as the scientific images they are confronted with.

*Curated by Katharina Lee Chichester*

## List of Works

**1 | Kirsten Pieroth, *Indonesien*, 2002**

Paper collage, 70 x 90 cm, Courtesy Elmgreen & Dragset

**2 | Constantin Luser, *Conversationscollagen*, 2010**

Paper collage, 35 x 35 cm, Courtesy Galerie Jette Rudolph, Berlin

**3 | Attila Csörgő, *How to Construct an Orange*, 1993-2002**

6 paper balls and fans, Courtesy Galerie Gregor Podnar, Berlin

**4 | Philip Loersch, *Bad is Logical*, 2010**

Paper work, 360 x 160 cm, Courtesy Galerie Jette Rudolph, Berlin

**5 | Deborah Ligorio, *Donut to Spiral*, 2004**

Video, 4:3 Format, 6:50 Min

**6 | Max Stocklosa, *Inventing Landscape*, 2011**

Mixed media installation, 240 x 160 x 120 cm

**7 | Christine Würmell, *Futures*, 2009**

2 Lightjet-Prints on aluminum Dibond, 57 x 67 and 42 x 53 cm

**8 | Evgenija Wassilew, *Scripts*, 2008/2010**

2 videos and book

**9 | Jürgen Drescher, *Teppichstück*, 2009**

Aluminum-sand-cast, 119,2 x 82 x 1 cm, Courtesy Mai 36 Galerie, Zürich

**10 | Bignia Wehrli, *Von Heiletsegg bis Allenwinden*, 2011**

Mixed media installation

**11 | Spiros Hadjidianos, *Network Time*, 2011**

Light installation, router and fiber optic cable

**12 | Ebba Fransén-Waldhör, *Autostereotextile*, 2009**

Textile piece

**13 | Students of the Introductory Class for Anatomy (Prof. Dr. Manfred Zoller), KHB**

Mixed media

**14 | Ayreen Anastas & Rene Gabri, *The Meaning of Everything*, 2010**

7 prints, 27,5 x 38,5 cm, Courtesy Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin

**15 | Reynold Reynolds, *Secret Machine*, 2010**

HD video, 7:00 Min, Courtesy Galerie Zink, Berlin

**16 | Carsten Nicolai, *Traces*, 2007**

Prints on handmade paper, 60 x 42 cm, Courtesy Galerie Eigen+Art

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Angelika Keune, Dagmar Oehler, Dr. Steffen Hofmann, Christian Axt, Hendrikje Jakobsen.

**Kleine Humboldt Galerie** is a student-run initiative for organising and curating exhibitions at Humboldt University, Berlin.

Kleine Humboldt Galerie was first established in 1978 by employees of the University's data center, and has now arrived at its 187th exhibition after numerous historical and personnel changes.

More information at [www.kleinehumboldtgalerie.de](http://www.kleinehumboldtgalerie.de)