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AN EXHIBITION IN INFRARED FILM PHOTOGRAPHY PRESS RELEASE: SOLO SHOW

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Infrascape I Diasec® 51 x 65 x 1/2 inches (130 x 165)
© Dean Bennici / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2010

DEAN BENNICI AN EXHIBITION IN INFRARED FILM PHOTOGRAPHY GRANGE ST. PAUL'S HOTEL LONDON AUGUST 6 – SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

There will be an informal opening in the hotel
atrium on August 6 from 6 - 9 pm.

We are pleased to announce that Los Angeles artist Dean Bennici will be showing a selection of colour infrared photographs in the main atrium of London's Grange St Paul's Hotel this August. Constructed in steel and glass with an 80 foot high ceiling, the structure is an ideal venue for this stunning collection of contemporary art. The work will be open for public viewing and sale from August 6th to September 5th.

I'm currently working only with infrared photography. Infrared light can't be seen by the human eye, so developing a sense for how it reacts with nature can be challenging. I love the idea of capturing what's not seen as opposed to what is. It's painting with invisible light, a camera and an infinite palette of hidden colours. --Dean Bennici

For this event, Bennici selected images from his "Clash" series 2008, "Unfinished Artists" series 2009 and the "Infrascape" series 2010. They are presented here in large, high gloss Diasec® format in limited editions of 1/5.

The three series deal with the exploitation of infrared light by use of colour schemes, light sources and materials. Bennici establishes the versatility of the medium and demonstrates a photo technique that has been largely overlooked by the photographic community. He uses no computer enhancement or manipulation of any kind and cuts, prepares and rolls the film by hand in complete darkness. Bennici is one of the only artist today using these methods and practices for colour infrared photography and the film material itself is no longer available, making this work among the very last of its kind.

The Clash series puts emphasis on the dialogue between contrast, colour and theme.

"Clash is an excercise in infrared photography that aims to highlight the important contrasting elements of a scene. Materials and surfaces play the most important role here, even more than colour. It is at the material surface where the reflection, refraction and absorption of light takes place"

The Unfinished Artists series is a catalogue of distinctive artistic personalities which are characterised and caricaturised by skillful use of the infrared colour palette.

"There are still many faces behind each of us that can only be discovered through the application of infrared photography."

In the Infrascape series, Bennici explores the possibilities of infrared landscape through the changing of the seasons and at varying altitudes, from sea level to heights of 10,000 feet. The main objective here is to push the limits of the film both technically and physically, often under extreme conditions.

Bennici has shown that a photographer can predict a photograph using just an idea and invisible light and as if blindfolded, transpose life into a remarkable infrared image. Capturing a subtle moment in time is something photography has set out to do since its beginning. With Infrared light, Bennici takes that a step further. The resulting images find a home somewhere between photography and painting with bold and edgy compositions only possible in this medium. In pursuit of his desire to discover "the hidden light", Bennici creates the surreal by fusing the flux of reality with the mystery of an known.

Colour infrared photography made its debut at London's Kodak Gallery in 1967 capturing some of the greatest iconic images of the era. It can be argued that the film is responsible for much of the pop art aesthetics of the time. The medium has been briefly revisited here by Bennici, presenting and preserving some of the very last colour infrared images to ever be recorded.

Dean Bennici was born in 1963 Pasadena, California, USA. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Processes and Materials Engineering from California State University, Long Beach in 1988. He moved to Europe permanently in 1999. His photographs are included in several private collections in Europe and around the world.

Bennici currently lives and works in Munich, Germany.

For further inquiries, reproduction permission, hi-res images and purchases, please contact Heike Purvis at:
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