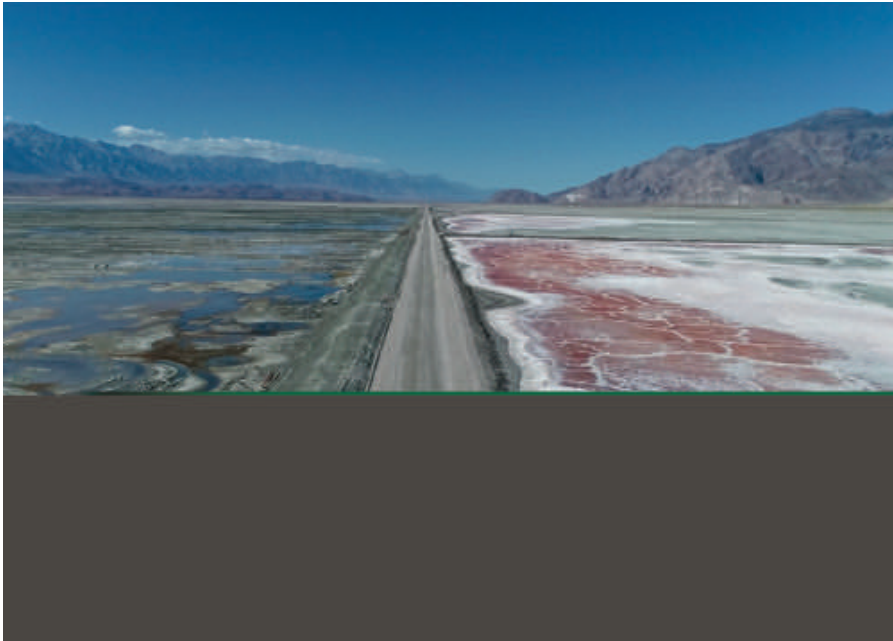


Esther Schipper

Christoph Keller

Future Archeologists

June 8 – July 6, 2023



Image, film still: Christoph Keller, **Future Archeologists**, 2023, three channel 4K HD video installation, dimensions variable

Esther Schipper is pleased to announce a special presentation by Christoph Keller who since joining in 1997 has had six solo exhibitions with the gallery. On view will be **Future Archeologists**, a new three-channel video installation.

With **Future Archeologists** Christoph Keller revisits the subjects of his own past as a trained hydrologist. The three-channel video installation presents an artistic survey into the environmental conditions in the Owens Valley on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada in California.

Point of departure and formal center of Keller's video installation are three filmic perspectives shot over the vast landscape of the now desiccated Owens Lake.

The Owen Valley and the surroundings of the lake was once flourishing, and its indigenous Paiute people maintained complex irrigation systems. In 1913, an aqueduct to provide for the city of Los Angeles was constructed, diverting Owens valley's waters and letting the lake dry out in just 15 years. Subsequently, the area became infamous as a source of dust pollution. In the early 2000s an extensive landscape transformation program was launched in some parts of the former lakebed, seeking to alleviate the development of toxic dust clouds traveling as far as Los Angeles. This dust mitigation project is in the focus of Keller's filmic inquiry.

Keller's three-channel video installation presents the Owens Lake landscape from an aerial viewpoint. The video on the right channel moves in spiraling sweeps across the landscape, the central video relentlessly follows along the main supply road of the dust mitigation project, while the footage on the right channel moves in steadily sweeping movements toward the center of the former lake with disconcertingly beautiful vistas of mountainous terrain surrounding the dry lake's plain. As the camera travels across the mesmerizing landscape,

