

Thomas Struth

25 April – 21 June 2025

Potsdamer Straße 77-87, 10785 Berlin

Opening: Friday, 25 April, 6 – 8pm



Thomas Struth, *Semi Submersible Rig, DSME Shipyard, Geoje Island 2007*, 2007
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Galerie Max Hetzler is pleased to present a solo exhibition of works by **Thomas Struth** at Potsdamer Strasse 77-87 in Berlin. This exhibition offers visitors a new and, at times, surprising insight into Struth's oeuvre over the past four decades.

Thomas Struth's work is characterised by his long-term and careful pursuit of themes that revolve, in various guises, around the relationship between people and their environment. His photographs, which harmonise forms of documentation and contemplation, capture today's society through images of cultural spaces, as well as the natural world, portraiture and places of industrial and technological innovation.

The most recent work in the exhibition, *Hinakapo'ula, Hawai'i 2024*, draws viewers into the depths of densely wooded Hawaiian mountains. In contrast, *Semi Submersible Rig, DSME Shipyard, Geoje Island 2007* depicts an industrial megastructure on the southern coast of South Korea. Its monumental size and four mighty pillars are emphasised by the perspective of the steel colossus which stretches up to the upper edge of the picture.

The earliest portraits in the exhibition, taken in the 1980s, constitute some of the artist's most rarely seen works. Struth has long been interested in the depiction of people, as exemplified in his celebrated *Family Portraits*, which convey the intricacies of family dynamics. By contrast, the portraits in this exhibition focus on the relationship between subject and photographer. They seek to capture the presence of the individual and thus make visible an incomprehensible yet universally recognisable facet of humanity.

Since the late 1980s, Struth has also explored the special relationship people have with works of art, and the places that house them. His *Museum Photographs* depict viewers confronting their own civilisation across the ages. In 2023, the artist spent several days at The Metropolitan Museum in New York, where he photographed visitors in front of Édouard Manet's *The Execution of Maximilian*, 1867–1868 and Edgar Degas' *The Bellelli Family*, 1958–1967. In the resulting diptych, titled *The Metropolitan Museum of Art (Diptych)*, New York 2023, Struth alludes to a historic connection between the two artists: following his death, Manet's family cut up his painting to sell it in parts; the surviving fragments were later acquired by Degas, and were eventually reassembled in the late 1970s. Adding further layers to the work, Struth captures present-day museum visitors as they photograph

the painting with their luminous smartphones. Spaces, times, cultures and attitudes are layered and combined, mediated via the artworks and their audience, and the viewer of the photograph.

The *New Pictures from Paradise* represented in this exhibition date from the early 2000s, the decade that saw a heightened awareness of the fragility and importance of the natural world. In these photographs, Struth aims to depict a diversity so dense that individual components are no longer identifiable to the human eye and an impression of inaccessibility prevails instead.

A similar experience is at play in Struth's *Nature & Politics* photographs, initiated in 2007. In the present exhibition, these are represented through scenes from aerospace technology and nuclear fusion test centres. In *High Harmonic Generation Spectrometer, Weizmann Institute, Rehovot 2009*, a bewildering tangle of colour-coded wires and technical instruments conveys the unfathomable reality of advanced technology to the untrained eye. Its promise of future innovation remains abstract and intangible.

Thomas Struth (b. 1954) lives and works in Berlin. Struth has exhibited his work at Galerie Max Hetzler on a regular basis since 1987. Major retrospectives were held at the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao (2019) and the Haus der Kunst, Munich (2017). In 2016, his comprehensive solo exhibition *Nature & Politics* opened at the Museum Folkwang, Essen, before being presented at the Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, the High Museum, Atlanta, the Moody Center for the Arts, Houston, and finally the Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri. Other major solo exhibitions have taken place at international institutions including MAST Foundation, Bologna (2019); Aspen Art Museum (2018); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2014 and 2003); Kunsthaus Zürich; Museu Serralves, Porto and K20, Düsseldorf (all 2011); Museo del Prado, Madrid (2007); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2003); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Dallas Museum of Art (2002).

Thomas Struth's works are in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Dallas Museum of Art; Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; Kunsthaus Zürich; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, MOCA, Los Angeles; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; The Museum of Modern Art, New York and Tate, London, among others.

Further exhibitions and events

BERLIN

Sergey Kononov
Celso and the past
1 May – 4 June 2025
Bleibtreustraße 45
10623 Berlin

Leilah Babirye
Ekimyula Ekijjankunene (The Gorgeous Grottesque / Die prächtige Grotteske)
1 May – 28 June 2025
Goethestraße 2/3
10623 Berlin

Leilah Babirye
Ekimyula Ekijjankunene (The Gorgeous Grottesque / Die prächtige Grotteske)
1 May – 4 June 2025
Bleibtreustraße 15/16
10623 Berlin

PARIS

Sarah Crowner
Tableaux en Laine, Pierres en Bronze
26 April – 21 June 2025
46 & 57, rue du Temple
75004 Paris

LONDON

Jake Longstreth
California Landscapes
24 April – 8 June 2025
41 Dover Street
London W1S 4NS

MARFA

Richard Prince
Posters
May – December 2025
1976 Antelope Hills Road
Marfa, Texas

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