

WALTER NIEDERMAYR
SURFACES
JANUARY 25 – MARCH 8, 2014

Galerie Nordenhake is pleased to present a solo exhibition of Italian artist Walter Niedermayr. For his fourth exhibition at Galerie Nordenhake Berlin, the artist will show current works from his ongoing series, *Alpine Landscapes*. After making a series about the ski resort *Aspen* in the American Rocky Mountains between 2009-2011, Niedermayr returned to the European Alps to develop the body of work for the present exhibition. The artist is widely recognised for his large-scale, subdued photographs of alpine landscapes and images of the architectural spaces by Japanese architecture firm, SANAA. In each of his series, Niedermayr maintains a focus on man's relationship towards his surroundings. For the works in the exhibition at Galerie Nordenhake Niedermayr focuses on our growing intrusion on nature through acts of entitled avocations.

Since the 1980's, Niedermayr has been interested in exploring the various ways in which space has been shaped and occupied by man. He questions the ephemeral realms between representation and imagination through the lens of his camera. Engaging with the tradition of the great landscape artists, Niedermayr's compositions stop and suspend time and encourage the viewer to re-evaluate our imposition on nature: He assembles single images of the same motif into one seemingly continuous panorama. The resulting multi-panel images provoke a dualistic disconnectedness, both spatial and temporal. This approach unsettles photography's designated role of capturing a moment in time and denies the possibility of landscape as a unitary image.

Throughout his current work the discord between man and nature becomes more and more apparent. In both the diptych, *Dome des Petites Rousses 16*, 2013 as well as the video work, *GoPro*, 2013, Niedermayr exposes man's manipulation of nature as a platform for sports and recreation. "From a spatial point of view, everything is perpetually changing; including people and fashions. Nothing changes as quickly as the world of tourism, with leisure and sport activities evolving. These forms of movement create new structures within the landscape and change the circumstances of the present" (Walter Niedermayr).

People are captured in his photographs walking on glaciers (*Eggishorn 18*, 2012), skiing (*Jungfrauoch 28*, 2012) or cycling along the mountains. While they are positioned in nature, the people do not seem to be connected with the landscape that surrounds them. Wandering about a strange terrain or a surface that suits their activity, they seem disjointed rather than experiencing the landscape. Their gestures and behaviour suggest a presence that is more of an occupation *of* rather than a relation *with* the landscape, there seems to be more of a distance or even indifference than a true realisation of the nature.

Dag Petersson, Associate Professor at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts will give an introduction to Walter Niedermayr's work at 7 pm on the night of the opening.

Walter Niedermayr was born in 1952 in Bolzano, Italy where he currently lives and works. Recent solo exhibition include *Appearances* at La Filature, Mulhouse (2013), at the Instituto Italiano di Cultura de Paris (2012). Other solo exhibitions include DeSingel Int. Arts Centre, Antwerpen, Arc en Rêve Centre d'architecture Bordeaux, together with Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa / SANAA Architects Tokyo (2007), Kunsthalle Wien, Kunstverein Hannover, Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Museion, Bozen (all 2003).

Walter Niedermayr has participated in numerous international group exhibitions such as Fotomuseum Winterthur (2013), Denver Art Museum (2011), the Venice Biennial 12th International Architecture Exhibition (2010), MOCA, Los Angeles (2004), MANIFESTA 7 (2008), the Venice Biennial 9th International Architecture Exhibition (2004); Fondation Beyeler, Basel (2003), Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Kestnergesellschaft Hannover, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, Akademie der Künste, Berlin, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt (all 1999).

His work is represented in international public and private collections such as The Centre Pompidou Paris, Museum of Contemporary Art MoCa Los Angeles, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Albertina Wien and the UBS Collection, among others.

Since 2011 Walter Niedermayr has a lectureship for Fine Art photography at the Faculty of Design and Art, Free University of Bolzano. Recent monographs: 2013 *The Aspen Series*, Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern; 2011 *Appearances*, Skira, Milano; 2010 *Recollection*, Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern.

Exhibition period: January 25 – March 8, 2014

Opening: January 24, 18-20 h

Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 – 18:00

Please contact the gallery for further information and press images.

ARTISTS: CHRISTIAN ANDERSSON OLLE BAERTLING MIROSLAW BALKA ANNA BARHAM IÑAKI BONILLAS ANN BÖTTCHER GERARD BYRNE JOHN COPLANS SARAH CROWNER JONAS DAHLBERG ANN EDHOLM SPENCER FINCH HREINN FRIDFINNSSON PAUL FÄGERSKIÖLD FELIX GMELIN FRANKA HÖRNSCHEMEYER GUNILLA KLINGBERG EVA LÖFDAHL MEUSER HELEN MIRRA ESKO MÄNNIKÖ SIROUS NAMAZI WALTER NIEDERMAYR SCOTT OLSON MIKAEL OLSSON MARJETICA POTRČ HÅKAN REHNBERG ULRICH RÜCKRIEM MICHAEL SCHMIDT FLORIAN SLOTAWA LEON TARASEWICZ JOHAN THURFJELL ALAN UGLOW GÜNTER UMBERG NOT VITAL MAGNUS WALLIN STANLEY WHITNEY RÉMY ZAUGG JOHN ZURIER