

# GALERIE NÄCHST ST. STEPHAN ROSEMARIE SCHWARZWÄLDER

In the LOGIN: **JAMES WELLING** *Metamorph*

May 10 – 17 June, 2017

Internationally, James Welling is one of the most keenly experimental photographers who has created a most diverse series of works. Fascinated by aesthetic, conceptual and material challenges of the medium he works with black and white photography, photograms, colour photography, handmade filters, and he was an early embracer of digital photography and through this explores the colour potential of Photoshop and ink-jet printing.

Welling originally studied painting, and motivated by Merce Cunningham's Dance Company, modern dance for a year in Pittsburgh. He graduated from the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles and initially produced sculptures, videos and paintings before concentrating on photography. In the *Choreograph* series, which the video displayed in LOGIN is based on, these performative and painterly beginnings, along with questions concerning sculpture and the body in space can be seen overlapping with Welling's photographic experiences in MoMA New York's sculpture garden, and his photographs of architecture by Marcel Breuer, Mies van der Rohe, Philip Johnson and others.

"Taking black-and-white photographs of landscapes, dance performances, and architecture, shot himself or by his assistants, he transformed them in Photoshop's red, green, and blue color channels before uniting them in unexpected amalgams. (...) Welling now took the photographic option of merging layers of time to a new level with the technical integration of images he or his assistants had collected with their cameras or mobile phones. In addition to this, he produced further material visiting some dozen dance companies in Los Angeles, Ottawa, and New York. This collage of various fields of interest and influence allows Welling to once again open up new channels, reactivating fields he had already touched upon, such as architecture and landscape, as they encounter the, for him, hitherto photographically unexplored territory of dance. (...) Persistently layering and cross-fading his own personal history, Welling's work manifests itself as a structurally open and dynamic archive about photography, as a medium with parameters similar to human memory that continually reformulates the presence it touches upon. Welling invites us into the gaping vacuum between painting and photography, and he allows us to explore the space between the subject and the image, as well as the space between the self and the other." (Heike Eipeldauer)

Our exhibition in the LOGIN, his 5<sup>th</sup> solo presentation in the gallery, accompanies James Welling's extensive body of work on show at Kunstforum Wien, Vienna from May 5 – July 16, 2017. The quotes are taken from the exhibition catalogue pages 117 and 123.

JAMES WELLING born in 1951 in Hartford, Connecticut, lives and works in New York City. He participated in the documenta IX in Kassel, in 1992 and the Whitney Biennial, New York City, in 2008. In 2000, the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio organized a major survey of his work, which traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

Selected solo exhibitions: Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent (2017), Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania (2015), Art Institute of Chicago (2014), Fotomuseum Winterthur (2013), Cincinnati Art Museum (2013), Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2013), Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela (2013), The Wardsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut (2012), MK Gallery, Milton Keynes, Great Britain (2012), Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2012), The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (2010), Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York (2006), Palais de Beaux-Arts, Brussels (2002), Sprengel Museum, Hannover (1999), Kunstmuseum Luzern (1998), Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (1998), Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg (1994), Kunsthalle Bern (1990)

The artist's work is represented in major museum collections, including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York City; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City; Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography; Vancouver Art Gallery; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City.