

Press release of 8 January 2016

Hans Jörg Bachmann: «Forest paths»

Taken by the ancient power and intense beauty of pilgrims' paths and sacred districts and inspired by Japanese ink painting, Hans Jörg Bachmann has travelled through Japan several times. Many of his photographs were taken on forest hikes, others at Shintō shrines or Buddhist temples. He captured trees, pools, stones and waterfalls, as well as temple roofs, gardens and gates. The peace and meaning of the places the artist brings us closer to through his images are also present in the apparently trivial.

Swiss artist Hans Jörg Bachmann (*1949) has engaged himself with various aspects of Japanese art and culture for many years. Several trips and study visits have resulted in numerous photographs, with which he draws the country nearer.

His most recent images of pilgrims' paths, shrine and temple districts are inspired by the subjects and techniques of traditional Japanese ink painting. With black and white images Bachmann translates into photography the expressiveness of brush strokes, the richness of innumerable black and grey nuances and the concentration upon the essential.

Bachmann's images radiate great peace and strength and, at the same time, something mysterious. They are reduced to a few figurative elements, often showing only details and forgoing a central perspective within the composition. Subjects and meanings are thus sometimes only clear at second glance. Only after taking time to roam around the image with the eyes and mind does one discover the venerability of special stones and old giant trees, the wealth of forms in waterfalls or the timeless peace that characterises shrine and temple districts. In a way as subtle as it is impressive, the photographs of Hans Jörg Bachmann show the wealth of Japanese culture and piety that can also manifest itself on a ramble down a forest path.

You and your friends are warmly invited to the exhibition preview on Thursday 21 January 2016, from 17.00 to 20.00. The artist will be present.

The exhibition runs from 22 January 2016 to 5 March 2016.

Discussion with the artist: On Thursday 4 February 2016 at 18.30 art expert Prof. em. Kurt Schmid talks with Hans Jörg Bachmann.

Talk on «Japanese garden art»: Thursday 18 February 2016 at 18.30. Introduction to Japanese garden art with the Japanologist and art historian Dr. Charly Iten.

Closing drinks with exhibition tour: Saturday 5 March 2016 from 11.00 to 14.00. Hans Jörg Bachmann leads tours of the exhibition at 12.00 and 13.00.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 13.00 to 18.00, Saturday 11.00 to 14.00, or by appointment.

Further information available from:

Claudia Geiser
+41 79 675 65 40, info@claudiageiser.ch

Hans Jörg Bachmann

Career

1979–1981	Study of free painting and art education at the Berlin University of the Arts (DE)
1985	Co-founder of the Kunsthalle St. Gallen (CH)
1985–1996	President of the Association of the Kunsthalle St. Gallen (CH)
1989/1990	Study visits to Andalusia (ES)
1990–2012	Teacher in design at upper school, grammar school and higher education levels
1993	Study visit to Mexico
1993–1997	Photography courses at the F+F School of Art and Design Zurich (CH)
1995–2012	<i>Kunst und Schule</i> art education projects with artists
1997	Founding member Fotoforum St. Gallen (CH)
	Study visit to Mexico
2005/2006	Studio and study visits to Genua (IT)
2007/2012	Studio in Rodalquilar, Andalusia (ES)
2008	Study visit to Havanna (CU)
2010	Study visit to Shanghai (CN)
2013/2015	Study visits as artist in residence in Kyoto (JP)

Solo exhibitions

2015	<i>Au joli mois de mai, Voirie,</i> Biel/Bienne (CH) ARTHUR, Kulturraum, Biel/Bienne (CH) edition clandestin, Biel/Bienne (CH) <i>après la cascade,</i> Berenik Projektraum, Zurich (CH)
2014	Ethnological Museum, St. Gallen (CH)
2013	Japanese Art Forum JARFO, Kyoto (JP)
2009	Galerie WERKART, St. Gallen (CH)
2007	PALACE St. Gallen (CH)
2006	Historical Museum, St. Gallen (CH)
2004	Schloss Dottenwil, Wittenbach (CH)
2003	casa latinamericana St. Gallen (CH)

Group exhibitions

2015	Projektraum Kornhaus, Rorschach (CH) Japanese Art Forum JARFO, Kyoto (JP)
2014	Japan Information and Cultural Center, Bern (CH)
2011	<i>5-stern</i> – visarte ost, St. Gallen (CH)
2010	Galerie WERKART, St. Gallen (CH)
2008	<i>exex</i> – visarte ost St.Gallen (CH)
2007	<i>5-stern</i> – visarte ost, St. Gallen (CH)
2006	Galleria h44, Genua (IT)
2001	Atelierausstellung Josef Felix Müller, St. Gallen (CH)
1999	Kleines Kunsthaus St. Gallen (CH)
1998	<i>Sidecar,</i> Kunsthalle St. Gallen (CH)
1997	FotoForum St. Gallen (CH)
1996	FotoForum St. Gallen (CH)
1990	Adjudicated annual exhibition, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (CH)
1984	Kunstszene St. Gallen (CH)

Collections

Medienzentrum Kreuzlingen; Oberstufenzentrum Wittenbach; Ethnological Museum, St. Gallen.

Selected works

1. Hans Jörg Bachmann, *Torii*, 2015, inkjet print on paper, 30 x 40 cm.
2. Hans Jörg Bachmann, *Pilgrim*, 2015, inkjet print on paper, 40 x 60 cm.
3. Hans Jörg Bachmann, *Stone III*, 2015, inkjet print on paper, 40 x 60 cm.
4. Hans Jörg Bachmann, *Waterfall on Moss-covered Hillside*, 2015, inkjet print on paper, 40 x 60 cm.