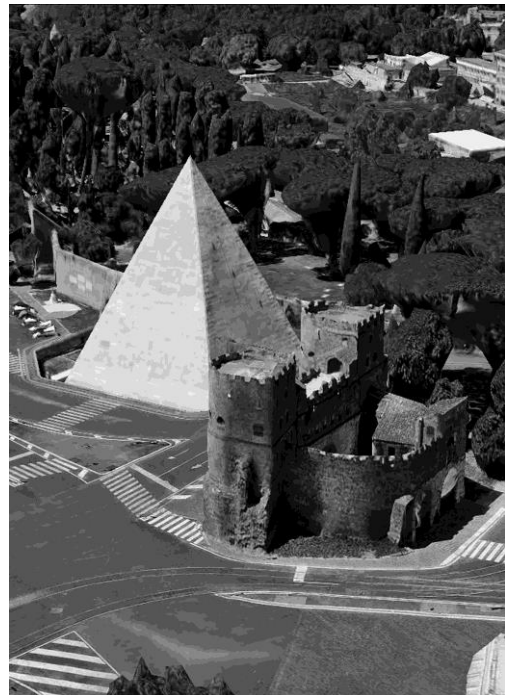


Press material

Museum Folkwang

DANIELA COMANI
Planet Earth: 21st Century
20 January – 11 June 2023



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Press release

Museum Folkwang

New acquisition of the Department of Photography: Museum Folkwang presents *Daniela Comani. Planet Earth: 21st Century* in a new exhibition

Essen, 19 January 2023 – From 20 January to 11 June 2023, Museum Folkwang is showing its new acquisition *Planet Earth: 21st Century* by the Italian photographer Daniela Comani (*1965). In the exhibition of the same name, the extensive work is presented in dialogue with works from the museum holdings of the Department of Photography. In parallel, new works by students in Photography Studies and Practice of the Folkwang University of the Arts can be seen under the title *Stopover 2023*.

The work complex *Planet Earth: 21st Century* (2015–2019) by Daniela Comani, acquired in 2022, consists of an archive of black-and-white postcards. It shows important monuments such as the Arc de Triomphe in Paris or the Colosseum in Rome. However, less familiar but equally fascinating cities, buildings and structures are also depicted. As a kind of encyclopaedia, 360 places are shown that Comani has travelled to virtually via her computer. The artist navigates through the map services Apple Maps Flyover and Google Earth, which depict the world in 3D renderings. By selecting certain perspectives and sections, Comani reproduces the screenshots as black-and-white postcards as well as in the form of an artist's book. Through the transformation, the Berlin-based artist refers to analogue photography as well as the distribution method of images from all over the world that was popular especially in the 20th century.

Comani's interest in the places shown is not of a touristic nature. For the photographer, her inventory is a contemporary historical document of the early 21st century. Incessantly, man shapes and reshapes the earth, cities grow and decay, and monuments are toppled or outlive generations. Comani's archive represents a moment within this development – in its depicted objects as well as in the state of technology itself. The virtual journeys Comani undertook from 2015 to 2019 were limited only by which places were already made available in 3D by digital map services.

The virtual image opens up further aspects of Comani's working method. On closer inspection, calculation errors in the renderings – so-called glitches – catch the eye, in which the striking architectural structures lose their fixed form and photographic image information changes into new virtual realities. Entire city districts blur and become shadowy volumes and textures. The absence of humans, who have been algorithmically removed from the city views, is also striking.

Museum Folkwang

Accompanying Comani's deserted urban views, the exhibition presents works by artists from the museum holdings of the Department of Photography. From the 19th century, for example, Edouard Baldus's photographs represent various city views in France as a stage. A directly human experience is reflected in the conceptual and sociological works from the 20th and 21st centuries by Ella Bergmann-Michel, Mario de Biasi, Wendelin Bottländer, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Jürgen Heinemann, Arne Schmitt/Andrej Steinbach and Randa Shaath. These photographers understand places as social space that is shaped and influenced by people in equal measure.

At the same time, students of the master's programme Photography Studies and Practice of the Folkwang University of the Arts will present their current projects in the exhibition *Stopover 2023. M.A. Photography Studies* (20 January – 11 June 2023), thus providing insights into the development processes of their works. The students of the parallel master's programme Photography Studies and Research will hold a workshop on 27 January 2023.

Daniela Comani's work complex *Planet Earth: 21st Century* was acquired in 2022 with funding from Stiftung Presse-Haus NRZ.

Information

DANIELA COMANI

Planet Earth: 21st Century

20 January – 11 June 2023

Department of Photography in the Basement

Admission is free of charge



Daniela Comani

Planet Earth: 21st Century, 2015–2019

Rome, Italy. Porta San Paolo / San Paolo Gate, former Porta Ostiensis (270–275 AC), Piramide Cestia / Pyramid of Cestius (18–12 BC) and Cimitero acattolico / Protestant Cemetery (1716)

Postcard: 14.8 x 10.5 cm

© Daniela Comani and VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023

Biography

Museum Folkwang

Born in 1965 in Bologna, lives and works in Berlin

Education

1993	MFA, Universität der Künste, Berlin
1992	Student exchange, Surikow Institute, Moscow
1989-1993	Universität der Künste, Berlin
1985-1989	DAMS Arte, Università degli Studi, Bologna
1984-1988	Accademia di Belle Arti, Bologna

Awards and scholarships

2020	Research grant, Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Berlin
2019	Icona Award, Art Verona, Verona
2019	Catalogue funding, Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Berlin
2013	Book funding, Kunstfonds, Bonn
2012	Project funding, Kunst- und Kulturamt Lichtenberg, Berlin
2009	Visual arts grant, Berlin Senate for Cultural Affairs, Berlin
2008	Project funding, Berlin Senate for Cultural Affairs, Berlin
2007	Art in the underground: U2 Alexanderplatz, NGBK, Berlin
2005	Artist in Residence, C.A.R.K., Kanazawa, Japan
2005	Goldrausch project for women artists, Berlin
2004	Artist in Residence, Künstlerhaus Lukas, Ahrenshoop
2001	Artist in Residence, Center of Art Maebashi, Gunma, Japan
2001	Fine arts grant, Berlin Senate for Cultural Affairs, Berlin
1999	Grund-Kredit-Bank Art Award, Berlin
1996	Karl-Hofer-Gesellschaft Art Award, Berlin
1994	Photography grant from the Berlin Senate for Cultural Affairs, Berlin
1993	Studio grant at Karl-Hofer-Gesellschaft, Berlin
1993	DAAD travel grant for Russia and Japan
1992	NaFöG, post graduate research grant, Universität der Künste, Berlin
1986	Studio grant, Collegio Artistico Venturoli, Bologna

Numerous exhibitions and participation in exhibitions at national and international level

Facts & Figures

Museum Folkwang

DANIELA COMANI

Planet Earth: 21st Century

20 January – 11 June 2023

Curators

Thomas Seelig, Museum Folkwang, Essen

Matthias Pfaller, Scholar in the programme „Museumscuratoren für Fotografie“ 2022

Petra Steinhardt, Museum Folkwang, Essen

Support

Daniela Comani's work complex *Planet Earth: 21st Century* was acquired in 2022 with funding from Stiftung Presse-Haus NRZ.

Exhibition space

277,16 m²

3 Rooms

Exhibits

24 photographs

1 portfolio with 34 photographs

1 slide projection (81 parts)

Postcard installation (360 pieces)

Artist's book: Daniela Comani Planet Earth. 21st Century, Humboldt Book, Mailand 2019, € 26

Opening hours

Tue to Sun 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thu & Fri 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed on Mondays

Holidays during the term

Open on these public holidays: Easter Sunday (9.4.2023), Easter Monday (10.4.2023), May Day (1.5.2023), Ascension Day (18.5.2023), Pentecost Sunday (28.5.2023), Pentecost Monday (29.5.2023), Corpus Christi (8.6.2023)

Admission

Admission is free of charge.

Visitor services / Booking of guided tours

info@museum-folkwang.essen.de, +49 (0)201 88 45 444

Museum Folkwang

Directions

Transport connections from Essen main station: tram and underground lines 101, 106, 107, 108 and U11 in the direction of Bredeney or Messe Gruga to the Rüttenscheider Stern (the way to the Museum Folkwang is signposted, approx. 7 minutes' walk).

On foot from Essen Hauptbahnhof (main station): 15 minutes' walk from the south exit of Essen Hbf. Follow the signs and the blue glowing glass stones in the floor.

By car: Navigation info: Bismarckstraße 60, 45128 Essen

Press images

Museum Folkwang

The imagery may only be used in the context of reporting on the presentation **Daniela Comani**. **Planet Earth: 21st Century** (20 January – 11 June 2023) at Museum Folkwang. No work may be cut nor altered in any way. Images on the Internet may not exceed a resolution of 72 dpi with a maximum size of approx. 20x20 cm. The usage for social media must be requested independently in advance. We kindly ask to send us a copy.



Daniela Comani (*1965)

Planet Earth: 21st Century, 2015–2019

Cape Town, South Africa. Partial view of The Flats

Postcard: 14.8 x 10.5 cm

© Daniela Comani / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023



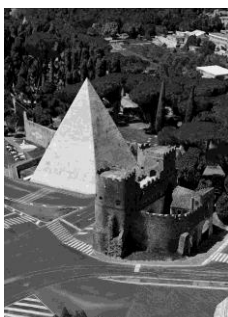
Daniela Comani (*1965)

Planet Earth: 21st Century, 2015–2019

Paris, France. Centre Pompidou (Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers, 1977)

Postcard: 14.8 x 10.5 cm

© Daniela Comani / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023



Daniela Comani (*1965)

Planet Earth: 21st Century, 2015–2019

Rome, Italy. Porta San Paolo / San Paolo Gate, former Porta Ostiensis (270–275 AC), Piramide Cestia / Pyramid of Cestius (18–12 BC) and Cimitero acattolico / Protestant Cemetery (1716)

Postcard: 14.8 x 10.5 cm

© Daniela Comani / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023

Museum Folkwang



Daniela Comani (*1965)

Planet Earth: 21st Century, 2015–2019

Tokyo, Japan. Nakagin Capsule Tower (Kisho Kurokawa, 1972)

Postcard: 14.8 x 10.5 cm

© Daniela Comani / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023



Daniela Comani (*1965)

Planet Earth: 21st Century, 2015–2019

Tunis, Tunisia. The Culture Tower (2010)

Postcard: 14.8 x 10.5 cm

© Daniela Comani / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023



Edouard Denis Baldus (1813–1889)

Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Rouen, um 1858

Cathedral Notre-Dame de Rouen

Albumen print

Image size: 33.3 x 39.9 cm

Acquired 1961 for the study collection of the Folkwang School, since 1979 Museum Folkwang



Edouard Denis Baldus (1813–1889)

Cathédrale Notre-Dame de l'Assomption de Rouen, 1858

Cathedral Notre-Dame de l'Assomption in Rouen

Albumen print

Image size: 33.3 x 39.9 cm

Acquired 1961 for the study collection of the Folkwang School, since 1979 Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang



Ella Bergmann-Michel (1895–1971)

From the Series: *Sonntag*, 1929–1932

Silver gelatine print

Image size: 12.3 x 15.4 cm

© Sünke Michel / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023



Mario de Biasi (1923–2013)

Pattinatori, um 1954

Silver gelatine print

Image size: 23.3 x 18.2 cm

© Archivio Mario de Biasi



Randa Shaath (*1963)

From the Series: *Under the Same Sky*, 2003

Silver gelatine print

Image size: 23.5 x 16.7 cm

Acquired 2015 with the support of Stiftung Presse-Haus NRZ

© Randa Shaath



Arne Schmitt (*1984) /Andrzej Steinbach (*1983)

From the Series: *It was the streets that raised me, streets that paid me, streets that made me a product of my environment*, 2009

Slide projection

© Arne Schmitt, Andrzej Steinbach / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2023