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Sabine Hornig Hut With Landscape With Hut, 2007

Stahl, Plexiglas, Duraclear/Steel, Plexiglas, Duraclear 8 Teile/8 parts 170 cm × 305 cm × 120 cm

Text von Thomas W. Eller

Sabine Hornig's creative work focuses on the relationship between reality and reproduction, which she communicates using concepts such as image, space and architecture. She reproduces architectural elements, removing them from their context and placing them in the exhibition space. She sometimes incorporates large-format photos that depict identical parts of buildings. Her photographs show windows that reflect whatever is opposite them. Their large formats and precise realization result in the photographs turning into "windows" on the gallery wall themselves. On an abstract level, these elements correspond to a problem of continuing relevance today. Since the Renaissance, the depiction of the window has been the metaphor for our perception of central perspective. The necessary questioning of this convention is a traditional task of art. Sabine Hornig examines the issue in an extremely disciplined way. While her "sculptures with photography" – probably a safe term for most of her works – define their own space in relation to the viewer, their interlacing and mirroring calls into question conventional notions of space. Their dimensions are always human and yet authoritative as well. The works' proportions require that they be taken seriously, but never overwhelm the spectator. In the best sense of the word, they provide a counterpart. However, this counterpart acts like a boundary. Both the photographs and the sculptural elements refuse to let the viewer in and thereby call into question the vantage point: Where is the observer – opposite the image or even in it? What images confront the viewer, and how is reality constructed within them? Sabine Hornig poses such important questions with considerable cleverness. Instead of a didactic approach, she offers powerful and convincing material beauty.

Born in Germany in 1964, Sabine Hornig's work examines the relationship between the individual, human body and the spatial body. She lives in Berlin.