



*Carte blanche
for
Petra Lutnyk*

Nature in Art, Art in Nature...

Exhibition in the Graphic Collection of
the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

24 January – 10 May 2020



Unknown photographer (19th century): *Shore Landscape*, n.d.,
albumen print mounted on cardboard



Petra Lutnyk (born 1962, Landeck): *Shore Landscape*, 2019,
fine art print on handmade paper



The Graphic Collection
of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
hosted by the Theatermuseum

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Opening Times
daily 10am – 6pm, closed Tuesday

www.kupferstichkabinett.at
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Petra Lutnyk (born 1962, Landeck): *Common Bracken, Pteridium aquilinum*, 2019, fine art print on handmade paper

In early 2018, the Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna launched its new series of exhibitions inviting artists to select works from the holdings and set them in a dialogue with their own works. The Graphic Collection is especially suited for such a dialogue. Since it was founded, it has created a collection of invaluable resources of visual models and display materials for generations of artists. In particular, as a visual encyclopaedia, the Photography Collection established from the 1850s has provided aspiring artists with a wide range of subjects to view, take as models or use as sources of inspiration.

Petra Lutnyk has selected depictions of nature from the Graphic Collection's Photography Collection taken in the late 1800s and discovered they all ultimately share common features as nature studies. To research these images more intensively, she looked for places with similar settings to find the inconspicuous amongst the obvious. From there, she took the plants into her studio, both the large ones, quickly seen even just in passing, as well as small plants in between. Using a macro lens, she then investigated them in her art. Her images show nature developing as a survival strategy, in all its fragility and vulnerability just as much as its diversity and beauty.

Nature's importance in art as a source of images and ideas declined in the age of modernity. Today, though, the interest in nature seems to have revived. Some read this as a »notice of loss« – symptomatic of an era where our existence is threatened by the ecological crisis. As a result, nature is now no longer just a source of inspiration, but located at an interesting interface of politics, science and art. The dividing line between these areas has shifted.



Petra Lutnyk (born 1962, Landeck): *Greater burdock, arctium lappa*, 2019, fine art print on handmade paper

The flora category with its rhythm of germinating, flowering and decay can be understood as symbolising life capable of regeneration – and so it is only human beings who are threatened.

Petra Lutnyk's photographic works explore the line separating nature studies and art, critically questioning when an artistic transformation of an image becomes an art work. At the same time, she addresses the nature of perception, making everyday things visible, showing them in a way we had never seen before. We know the taste of blackberries, recognise them in nature and may even have been scratched by these prickly shrubs – but who knows the leaves are also prickly?

Images of works by Petra Lutnyk © Petra Lutnyk; all other images © The Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Petra Lutnyk



Photo: Reinhard Golebiowski

- 1962 Born in Landeck, Austria
- 1987 Graduated (Mag. art.), University of Applied Arts Vienna, Master Class Peter Weibel
- 1989 Ceramics class, School of Arts, Capellagarden, Sweden
- 1990 Setting up a ceramics workshop in Lower Austria
- 1997 Study trip to Mexico and teaching at the Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas, Mexico City
- 1999 2nd Prize, 1st International Ceramics Biennale, Kapfenberg, Austria
- 2001 Honourable Mention, 1st International Ceramic Biennale, Icheon, Korea
- 2002 Holds lectures and workshops in Bulgaria, Korea, Japan and Taiwan
- 2003 Honourable Mention, 6th International Ceramics Festival, Mino, Japan
- 2004 Honourable Mention, 1st Taiwan Ceramics Biennale, Taiwan
- 2005 Lecturer, University of Art and Design Linz, Austria
- 2008 Teaching project, Ceramic Art School, Mukono, Uganda; Symposium, Camagüey, Cuba
- 2009 Symposium, Anadolu University, Eskişehir, Turkey
- 2011 Teaching project, Ceramic Art School, Mukono, Uganda
- 2012 Study trip to Siberia
- since 2002 Lecturer at the Höhere Bundeslehranstalt für Kunst und Gestaltung, Vienna