

# Dancing Darkness // Zeitgenössische Fotografie curated by Elliott Paul Grant

---

**8 December 2012 – 18 January 2013**

Opening Reception Friday, 7 December 19.00-22.00

Gallery of the Patton Stiftung, Saargemünder Straße 70, Saarbrücken / St. Arnauld, Germany

---

//

My mind is like the autumnal moon;

And how clear and transparent the deep pool!"

– Kazan

**Confluence** and the **Patton Stiftung Sustainable Trust** are pleased to present **Dancing Darkness**. The exhibition was inspired by the Japanese dance form, Butoh, and unites the work of eight artists and photographers. In Butoh, with roots in Noh drama and Zen Buddhism, the dancers express the interplay between emptiness and form, and between the light and darkness. Similarly, the dance of light and darkness and the dance between emptiness and form can be seen in each of the artist's work represented in this exhibition. Organized in the autumn of 2012, the photographs appearing were chosen by the artists and curator via an intuitive ongoing conversation. Together the photographs are elemental, primary, spare, quiet and atmospheric. There is no attempt to specifically document a particular place or time, rather the viewer is asked to allow their own imagination to emerge and reflect upon the dance of light and darkness.

## Tamas Dobos



"Mistress", 2012



"Annelise", 2012



"Medusa", 2010

**Tamas Dobos** shows nine haunting and enigmatic photographs completed between 2009 and 2012. His work defies easy categorization with portraits, landscapes and fashion photography blending easily. Figures often appear in duplicate or as ghostly twins of themselves. Dark backgrounds, merge with the direct and sensitive gaze of his sitters. His background as a cinematographer shows clearly, but no narrative is offered. In "Medusa", a woman's introverted stare betrays the loneliness the mythological character must have felt despite her magnetic beauty while in "Annelise" dark painted eyes meet the viewer's while she remains powerfully aloof.

# André Mailänder



From the series "Yukiguni" (Schneeland, Snow land), 2010 – 2011

Exhibited here for the first time, **Yukiguni** (Schneeland, Snow land), by **André Mailänder** takes its title from the novel by Kawabata Yasunari. The work emerged from the artist's stay in Berlin during the winter of 2010 – 2011. While there, the artist began to document the area around his studio as part of his ongoing series "Erfundene Orte". Though an integral part of the larger work of Erfundene Orte, Yukiguni represents a departure from the need to document a specific place. Indeed, one need not know the location at all in order to enter the space of the work. One is engulfed in falling snow glowing in the dark light of winter. The artist considers Yukiguni a work in progress that will continue to evolve. In her text written to accompany the exhibition, **Bettina Hanstein** emphasizes the transitory and ephemeral nature of the photographs.

*"Concerning the formal aspects, Kawabata's novel in its fragmented, constantly re-shaped character provides a starting point for the photographic work being presented here. This artwork will be evolving in time, will take different shapes. the process of selecting, discarding, changing, adding is not so much considered an interruption of a path that leads to completion, but rather an intrinsic property of the work which the artist has no choice but to accept."*

One also notices a deliberate graphic quality in some of the photographs. Empty centers of snow surrounded by the dark husks of last years flowers and birds attracted by next years seeds.

## Rachel Mrosek

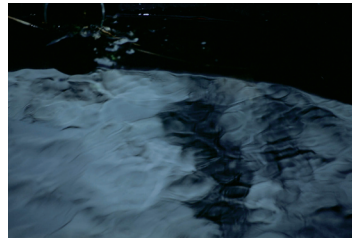
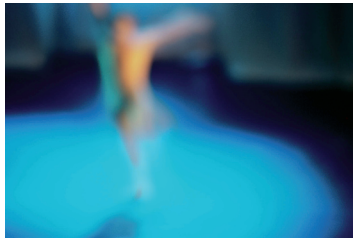


A graphic quality is also evident in **Rachel Mrosek's** intimate seascapes. The shadows and light on each wave are carefully articulated in fine detail. The work brings together opposites by having the wide view of the ocean presented so as to draw one close. The artist also created a painting directly inspired by and to be viewed with the photographs enlarging the scope and intention of the work. An object comprised of pairs of circular photographs sowed together is reminiscent of a mobile. These pairs are first cut from pictures of the shadows of plants and of vegetation covered in snow and cascade gently into a unified whole.



From the series "Shape in a trance", 2012

## Lilian Riewer



From the series "Wasser Tempel", 2010 – 2012

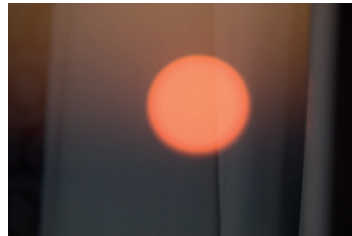
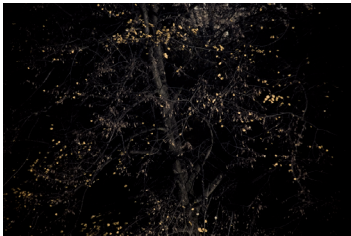
Completed between 2010 and 2012 "**Wasser Tempel**", by **Lilian Riewer** is comprised of six photographs, which can be seen separately or as one work. The central motif of each is the artist's meditations on the nature of water. The picture from which the group derives its title depicts a water plant folding into its reflection and completing a shape evocative of the tree of life of the Kabala. In other parts of the group the artist focuses on white light dancing on the surface of black water. The warm whites of light were photographed at the point where patterns are beginning to emerge and unfold, as if in an infinite pattern. In "Thousands of years ago", darkened lines of growth are etched into the skin of an old tree and clearly bear resemblance to a woman's torso, ancient yet primal and alive.



# Julia Schiller



The photographs of **Julia Schiller** open windows into a deeply reflective world of shadows and unclear boundaries. A woman and her reflection are meeting in an unknown darkened urban setting. The darkness erodes the boundary between the woman and her reflection and makes the reflection as real, as tangible as the woman herself. In another a dog walks alone on a street in almost no light, the uniform grays of the photograph are echoed in another in which the fog contains ghostly figures. An autumn tree, with aged leaves emerges dramatically from almost the total blackness of the forest. In the center of all, seen through the window's curtain a deep orange sun whose light is found again in the flowers on a table.



From the series "Almost There" (2007 – current) and "Echoes Thereof" (2012)

# Oliver Schneider



"Bittersweet", 2010



"Sleepy Eyes", 2011



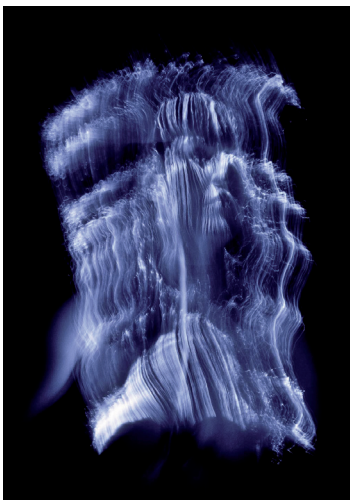
"The Grey Line", 2010

**Oliver Schneider** exhibits five recent photographs all of which are evocative of an unknown, unspecified narrative. A car's lights illuminate the Blue Mountains, the same blue as the evening sky, walking off into the distance. A moon viewed through blossoming flowers, a house in the snow and a river running through the forest. The work is neither concrete, nor is it abstract. It does not want to communicate something specific but rather to transmit an atmosphere. In the work the artist strives to avoid the documentary or the conceptual and instead be like a snapshot taken from a short story.

# Volker Schütz



"Vampyr Noir", 2011



"M." (Portrait), 2009



"Blue Melusine", 2011

In the work of **Volker Schütz**, lasers are used to transform models into other worldly creatures, goddesses, vampires and fairies. All the photographs have dark almost black backgrounds, which leave the viewer with little context. One is confronted with the feeling of suddenly being in the presence of a powerful mythological figure. The slightly larger than life size proportion of some of the photographs emphasizes this effect.



# Véronique Verdet



"Automne I", Bodensee 2012



"Strand I", Bodensee 2011



"Bäume I", Bodensee 2011

**Véronique Verdet** exhibits work from the series "**Automne**", completed this year for the first time. The golden light of the season draws the shape of plants. Seen closely and with various points both in and out of focus this world is transformed. The darkness of the backgrounds and the illuminated plants create an almost alien world where the common place meets the unknown. The images are bright, focused and colorful and together reveal a playful nature.

Text by curator Elliott Paul Grant.

The exhibition can be viewed at the **Patton Stiftung**, Saargemünder Straße 70 in Saarbrücken / St Annual, Germany.  
The opening reception features Markus Schneider / The Robot Scientists.

### Exhibition

08 – 21 December 2012 and 07 – 18 January 2013

### Gallery Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 4 – 7pm / Thursday, Friday, Saturday 4 – 8pm  
and by appointment.

### Contact

Elliott Paul Grant +49 178. 602 188 2  
Rachel Mrosek +49 160. 967 222 96

Further information about the exhibition on [www.dancing-darkness.tumblr.com](http://www.dancing-darkness.tumblr.com)

<p><b>Dancing Darkness</b></p> <p>Tamas Dobos . André Mailänder Rachel Mrosek . Lilian Riewer Julia Schiller . Oliver Schneider Volker Schütz . Véronique Verdet</p> 	<p><b>Dancing Darkness // Zeitgenössische Fotografie</b> Kurator: Elliott Paul Grant</p> <p>Vernissage: Freitag, 07. Dezember 2012 von 19 – 22 Uhr, Galerie der Patton Stiftung, Saargemünder Straße 70, Saarbrücken/ St. Annual. Musik: Markus Schneider (The Robot Scientists).</p> <p>Die Ausstellung ist vom 08. Dezember bis zum 21. Dezember 2012 und vom 07. Januar bis zum 18. Januar 2013 zu sehen. <b>Öffnungszeiten:</b> Dienstag und Mittwoch 16 – 19 Uhr, Donnerstag, Freitag, Samstag 16 – 20 Uhr sowie nach Absprache. <b>Kontakt:</b> Elliott Grant 0178 602 1882, Rachel Mrosek 0160 967 22296. <b>Weitere Infos unter</b> <a href="http://dancing-darkness.tumblr.com">dancing-darkness.tumblr.com</a></p> <p>Präsentiert von:</p> <p> <b>Confluence</b></p> <p> <b>pattonstiftung.comminale.com</b></p>
--	--

Invitation ( Design by Rachel Mrosek / [www.rachelmrosek.de](http://www.rachelmrosek.de) )