

"Aqua Globalis" is the title of a globe-encompassing project being pursued by the international well-known artist and photographer Sven Hoffmann since the early 1990s.

AQUA GLOBALIS:

Water: no one escapes its fascination. It draws people under its spell almost magnetically. And it is the eye that pursues the pleasure of exploring the medium of water, its tonal varieties, movement, reflections, and depth.

Water evokes emotions and desires. For the Greek philosopher Thales of Miletus, water was the material that produced the world. Water is the symbol of a universal language whose alphabet can be reduced to a single drop.

In his water compositions, Sven Hoffmann succeeds in poetically capturing surfaces that immediately invite viewers to project their individual dreams into the familiar.

The fact that this dream can undergo real, political, philosophical, biological, literary, historical, existential, economic, or ecological interpretation is part of what Sven Hoffmann's art has to offer.

SVEN HOFFMANN:

The art photographer Sven Hoffmann (b. 1965) is familiar with the content and hence all the more so with the visual aspect of water as a medium: "For me it is the same, I'm sure, as for many other people. Everywhere I am, I look for a river, a lake, the waves of the sea."

Structures, reflections, tensions, or the interpretability of blurry areas have influenced the works by this former master student at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin from the outset.

His theoretical and practical investigation of artistic creation, his individual position within the "art world" (with exhibitions since 1987), his physical affinity to surfing, and perhaps his time as a guest lecturer in photography at the Konstskola Nykarleby in Finland inevitably made water the orientation for Sven Hoffmann's photography.

AQUA GLOBALIS:

"Traveling, with stays in Egypt, Stockholm, Thailand, Dubai, New York, Israel, Rio de Janeiro, and Berlin itself with its countless lakes, has resulted in a plural network of image surfaces and hence color surfaces. My artistic task as a photographer is to capture, choose, and present them," as Sven Hoffmann puts it.

The series *Aqua Globalis* is intended to make it possible for every individual to develop an individual relationship to the world by means of photographs capturing the impressions of water in selected places in the world. The individual visual perception of the familiar becomes a global perception. It is as if the Greek sea god Poseidon had decided to set out on a voyage. . . .

"As man's mirror, water possesses a fantastic dimension, a dimension both utopian and oppressive. It mirrors his desires and fears, dreams and reality. It is a lyrical mirror whose insights are deeper and more penetrating than the world that shows on the surface...

Yet not only does water show man; it is a mirror which possesses magical reciprocity. With his myths and tales, man gives something back to water. He makes it tellable, describable. With his memories, his language, his pictures, he puts water into words. Without him, water would be forever mute.

John von Dueffel in the foreword to the catalogue *Aqua Globalis*