



Anita Witek's *Artist and Muse*, at *Traces of Time* exhibition, Leopold Museum, Vienna, 20 October 2017 to 26 February 2018; installation view



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In 2017 Witek was invited by Leopold Museum in Vienna to take part in a group exhibition, responding to the museum's collection. Witek decided to look closely at the portraits of Egon Schiele and to explore his relationship with Wally Neuzil, his model and muse. To create the new work, Witek used the posters produced by the museum to promote the exhibitions of Schiele's portraits, including his self-portrait and the portrait of Wally Neuzil. She cut out the main figures from the posters and left the remnants which depicted the fragments of the painted background of the pictures. She then layered these remnants, arranging them in abstract compositions that suggested the sensual poses taken by Wally Neuzil while modelling for Schiele. The result is a photographic series, *Artist and Muse*, consisting of the images that have a very sculptural and sensuous feel.

Anita Witek uses found visual material to create collages and photomontages, working with analogue photography. Some of the images take a format of framed three-dimensional photographs, the others are spatial installations that overwrite physical space. Witek's main interest lies in the subliminal influence of the photographic environment on our perception and memory. She removes the focal points from found images, she then layers these elements on top of each other to create imaginary spaces that she photographs in various stages of the assembly process. By decontextualizing the fragments and transferring them into new, unintended contexts, the artist strives to reveal inherent, latent levels of meaning.

Anita Witek's work rejects the integrity of the photographic surface, putting the imaginary space of photography back into question. Witek cuts printed photographs into pieces, fragments, slices, sections, panels and frames, which are assembled in various ways and then rephotographed. The 'whole' image becomes fragments, which become a whole image again. But in this cycle our sense of the nature of an image is changed. The image travels: from the original subject to the first printed surface; from the whole of the printed surface to the fragment of the cut print. These fragments are combined into an assemblage of material fragments of many images which become a whole image again, to be printed (or displayed digitally) once more. - JJ Charlesworth

Anita Witek lives and works in Vienna. She completed an MA in painting at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, Austria, and an MA in Photography at the Royal College of Art in London, UK. Amongst many prestigious awards, she received the Austrian Art Prize for Photography in 2015.

Witek has exhibited world-wide and her works are in prestigious public and private collections including Albertina (Vienna, Austria), Museum der Moderne Kunst (Salzburg, Austria), MUSA (the Collection of the Town of Vienna, Austria), TBA21 Collection (Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Austria), The Museum of Fine Arts Houston (Texas, USA), Charles Betlach Collection (CA, USA).



Anita Witek
Artist and Muse Draft #P06, 2017
Hand printed analogue C-Type Print
92 x 64.5cm, (framed 115.5 x 86 cm)
Edition of 3 + 2AP

£4,800 (including frame)



Anita Witek
Artist and Muse Draft #L02, 2017
Hand printed analogue C-Type Print
115.5 x 86cm framed (image 92 x 64.5cm)
Edition of 3 + 2AP

£4,800 (including frame)



Anita Witek
Artist and Muse Draft #T010, 2017
Hand printed analogue C-Type Print
115.5 x 86cm framed (image 92 x 64.5cm)
Edition of 3 + 2AP

£4,800 (including frame)



Anita Witek
Artist and Muse Draft #B02, 2017
Hand printed analogue C-Type Print
115.5 x 86cm framed (image 92 x 64.5cm),
Edition of 3 + 2AP

£4,800 (including frame)



Anita Witek,
Artist and Muse Draft #S09, 2017
Hand printed analogue C-Type Print,
92 x 64.5cm (framed: 115.5 x 86 cm),
Edition of 3 + 2AP

£4,800 (including frame)



Anita Witek,
Artist and Muse Draft #R08, 2018
Hand printed analogue C-Type Print,
92 x 64.5cm (framed: 115.5 x 86 cm),
Edition of 3 + 2AP

£4,800 (including frame)



Anita Witek,
Artist and Muse Draft #R03, 2018
Hand printed analogue C-Type Print,
169 x 200 cm,
Edition of 3 + 2AP

£10,700 (including frame)