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Occasion: Solo exhibition „*What A Day*“, Bildraum 07, Vienna, AT

Speech: Victoria Dejaco

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The exhibition at Bildraum 07 reflects the production and selection processes that underlies the works of Lukas Matuschek. For “What A Day” Matuschek uses digital photographs as a starting point - more precisely, photographs from messenger conversations, which were originally used to communicate information and which the artist transfers to canvas using an unusual transfer technique.

The effective manipulations of both levels - that of the original photograph as well as the pre-treated canvas - are at the center of an artistic fascination with the merging of a digital and an analog medium and their united possibilities of representation. All works refer to this transformation process, in which original information and contexts are lost and each image ultimately refers only to itself. The theme of representation in Lukas Matuschek’s work includes the existing absence of the represented.

As a consequence, the viewer’s access to the underlying meaning is also blocked. This loss of content and temporal contexts, as well as that of social and emotional connections, however, makes room for other levels of meaning. In addition to the emphasis on the autonomy of the viewer(s) with regard to the reception of his art, Matuschek also leaves room for unpredictable developments from a technical point of view. Although the images always go through the same process when they are transferred to canvas, fluctuations and irritations inevitably join them.

For the artist, the special attraction lies in those “chance products” that are encountered as blank spaces, color compression or blurring. Even the pale, pastel coloring is determined more by the respective pigment density of the canvas primer than by Matuschek himself. Moreover, in “What A Day” Lukas Matuschek touches on the theme of unpredictability within our transformation society and opens up a space of reflection in the midst of apparent contradictions - between digital floods of images and manual art tricks.