

Art Photo Project: "Goddess of Malta"



by **Gabriele Johanna Schatzl**

Background

My photographic works reflect my perception as a photo artist. My first encounter with the megalithic temple culture of Malta was on an excursion from my university during my studies. The visit to Malta and Gozo and their temples, Gigantija, Mnajdra and Hagar Quim astonished me. I thought, why did I never learn about this epoch in history lessons? There remained a big question mark and lingered the next few years in which I dealt with prehistoric sources and researched literature about this time. Finally, after 20 years, I came back to Malta to realize a photographic art project. My goal was to bring the time of temple culture and society to life, with all the knowledge that I had more and also my need to re-examine history and see it. During my stay in 2016, I was able to work with my photography equipment at the Museum of Archeology in Valletta and on Gozo in Victoria, due to a special permit from the Ministry responsible.

Space in Space - Describing my Work

I urge that perception is always pending from individual perspective and therefore as diverse as there are people on this earth. For me, the look is never easy but always multiple and I can change my location again and again. My work should motivate to engage in more detailed constructions of reality and to accept ambiguity. Having chosen photography as the medium for me as an artist, photography technology is based on creating images of situations, objects and living beings, while at the same time expanding them collagen-like through image processing and / or camera technology. So I invite you to always look at reality from multiple perspectives. The superimposition of different impressions to a single one lies in the desire never to be content with a perspective. This I achieve on the one hand by working with digital image processing and on the other hand by the recording technique of multiple exposure.

Reactions of viewers are the recognition of details that arise through the overlapping of image

layers, influence the impression, change and redefine the image. The effect of looking at my works for a long time is the movement of the image through the layers, which interact and move alternately to the foreground - thus creating the impression of three-dimensionality.

Message

The series of thirteen photographic works implemented as a photo collage is intended to convey the viewer * to a time that was worldly and spiritually connected above all with nature, the sea and this planet. This attachment to All Being was expressed in a highly feminine spirituality, with the earth and life creating being at the center. At the same time there was already an interest in the cosmos and the knowledge about the heavenly orbits of the stars due to the orientation and the location of the temples. The short texts written by me on the individual photographic works, quasi-poured words from personal impressions of my stay, accompany the observers and viewers.

Photo works

The resulting thirteen digital photo collages show the complexity of my impressions of this time. The different perspectives of individual shots are poured over the incorporation of several photo layers to form an overall statement. Not only the superimposed but the interrelation of the individual layers reflect the newly created view of that time.

Reference

Ulrike Jenni, author and art historian at the University of Vienna and researcher at the Otto Pächt Archive (contact: T: +34 1 4277-41467, E: ulrike_jenni@hotmail.com) writes about my work in the exhibition "BilderLesen" (see portfolio) with the author Gerda Marie Pogoda in the "Tarantel-Zeitschrift für Kultur":

"(...) The works gain a formal and substantive depth through the complex and labor-intensive working method - a particular strength of this cycle. (...)

Art photography shows a congenial coincidence of content and formal execution. The artist finds a way to understandably communicate the complex problem of the threatened country with the help of two heads. (...)"

Contact

Gabriele Johanna Schatzl

Telephone number. 06991 942 16 97

Email: info@maat-artio.at

Address: Anton Sattler Gasse 100/10

1220 Vienna