

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

For Immediate Release:

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STEFAN HEYNE

SUPER VISION: The New German Abstraction

February 25 – April 15, 2017

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Opening: Saturday, February 25th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Diane Rosenstein is pleased to announce *SUPER VISION*, the first United States solo exhibition of photographs by Berlin-based artist Stefan Heyne. *SUPER VISION: The New German Abstraction* is a contemporary survey of Heyne's photo-based work (2004 – 2016), with an emphasis on his recent "SEAT" series of large format color abstractions. *SUPER VISION* opens Saturday, February 25th, 2017 with a reception for the artist from 6 - 8 PM.

Since the late 1970s, German photography abroad bears the influence and legacy of the "New Objectivity" of the Becher School (aka Dusseldorf School) and its well-known protagonists, such as Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer, and Thomas Struth. Stefan Heyne's "New German Abstraction" opposes this clarity and is emphatically non-representational. He has consistently pushed his photo-based images into radical abstraction and set aside visual clarity for the "indefinite". In some early work, Heyne switched off the autofocus of a digital SLR camera (or deliberately used blur effects) to dissolve the shape and definition of his compositions. The result leaves the objects in his pictures in a state of uncertainty, resisting the usual observational parameters. Faint traces of things appear in the light, only to disappear again in the contiguous darkness.

In his recent large-scale color series of "SEAT" works Heyne achieves a radical degree of abstraction through the use of high definition reproductions of perhaps one of the purest motifs of all: the cloudless sky. The color spectra of pure light that are revealed in these images seem blurry and 'out of focus', but they are not – instead, the viewer is confronted with an endless depth of space. His emphatic abstractions are in essence, rigorous in their 'realism'.

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In her catalogue essay for *Speak To Me (DKW), 2012*, Curator Karen Irvine observed that, "Heyne is interested in making beautiful pictures that impart visual pleasure and spark the imagination. By frustrating our viewing process and our need to know what an image "is," he forces our active participation in the work, and highlights the subjectivity of experience in the process. As he probes the boundaries of photography—how it is defined and what it can, and cannot, depict—he finds that there are none. In his deft hand, the camera becomes an instrument not of literal transcription, but poetic possibility."

Stefan Heyne: SUPER VISION will be on view from February 25 – April 15, 2017
The artist will attend the opening reception on Saturday, February 25th 6p – 8p

Stefan Heyne (Germany, b. 1965) received his MA in stage design at the Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weißensee, Berlin (1993). He began exhibiting photographs in 2004. Heyne has received four solo museum exhibitions in Germany: *NAKED LIGHT: Die Belichtung des Unendlichen (Exposing Infinity)*, Städtische Galerie Dresden (2014), *Speak to Me: Fotografien*, Kunstmuseum Dieselkraftwerk Cottbus (2012); *Die Magie der Leere: Fotografien 2006-2012 (The Magic of Emptiness)*, Kunstsammlungen und Museen Augsburg (2012); and *Gegendarstellung*, Stadtmuseum Gross-Gerau (2010). He was included in *The Autonomous Picture: Five Concepts of Contemporary Photography (Das autonome Bild: Fünf Konzepte aktueller Fotografie)*, Kunstmuseum Bochum (2016) and *Light Painted Abstractions*, Kaune Contemporary, Cologne (2016). His photographs are in the permanent collections of DKW (Kunstmuseum Dieselkraftwerk Cottbus), Cottbus; and Kunstsammlungen und Museen Augsburg, both in Germany. The artist lives and works in Berlin.

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