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Mona Kuhn

She Disappeared into Complete Silence

Main description

Acclaimed for her contemporary and intimate depictions of the nude, Kuhn takes a new direction into abstraction in her latest series *She Disappeared into Complete Silence*. Photographed at a golden modernist structure on the edge of Joshua Tree National Park, architectural lines, light reflections and a single figure have been carefully balanced against the backdrop of the Californian desert.

The human figure, Mona's friend and collaborator Jacintha, emerges like a surrealist mirage, fragmented and indistinct, at times submerged in shadows or overexposed. The building's facade of glass and mirrors serve as optical planes, an extension of the artist's camera and lens. Light is split into refracting colors, desert vegetation grows sideways, inside is outside and outside in. Kuhn pushes a certain disorienting effect by introducing metallic foils as an additional surface, at times producing purely abstract results. *She Disappeared into Complete Silence* marks Kuhn's increasing use of techniques that appear to merge the figure, abstractions and landscape into one.

Biography

Mona Kuhn is best known for her large-scale, dream-like photographs of the human form. Her pictures often reference classical themes with a light and insightful touch. Kuhn's approach to her work is distinguished by the close relationships she develops with her subjects, resulting in images of remarkable naturalness and intimacy, and creating the effect of people who are naked but comfortable in their own skin. Kuhn's Steidl books include *Photographs* (2004), *Evidence* (2007), *Native* (2009), *Bordeaux Series* (2011) and *Private* (2014).

Bibliography

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