

REALE FANTASIEN

NEUE FOTOGRAFIE AUS DER SCHWEIZ

REAL FANTASIES

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY FROM SWITZERLAND

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CONSTRUCTING THE WORLD When we stroll through the world, glancing here and there, taking in various displays and suddenly chancing upon some lovely nook or cranny, some exciting play of light and shadow, or catching the inkling of an image that draws us in, there is less serendipity involved than we might think. After all, we carry around so many images in our heads, more or less consciously. These are the images that guide the way we see and allow us to find their equivalents in the world outside. We have, as it were, already determined in advance what it is we have to find. This process invariably involves an element of “constructing the world”. Marianne Engel’s pictures contain something of this interaction in that they portray nature in a very natural way, altered and accentuated only by the influence of light. The real world thus serves as a stencil through which the light falls, bringing the under-ground to life. Some of the following works eschew the real almost entirely, drifting instead into the imaginary and the uncanny, entering the realms of fiction.

Whereas Rockmaster K creates strangely appealing creatures, **MARIANNE ENGEL** [p. 82] seems to wade into the underbelly of a timeless “everytime”: she explores spaces and landscapes like a psychiatrist delving into the depths of the subconscious. She uses torches, street lamps, camera flash and long exposures to tease colours and shapes out of the darkness of the night, generating a membrane, an in-between world, in which everything seems to come alive, to be colourful and present. Nightscapes turn into fantastic psychological landscapes, like caves explored by the light of a helmet-lamp. Trees become creatures, ordinary homes become witches’ hovels – deliberate references to the fantasy world of childhood and fairytales, to the timeless archetypal depths and mysteries of the human psyche.