

CORKIN GALLERY

Frank Mädler
126 Polaroid

I use the word “polaroid” as a synonym for an instantaneous image. I view the instantaneous image as the ultimate photograph.

For many years I have been making photographs with different Polaroid cameras and the Polaroid images kept amassing. At one point I decided to start a selection process where I would place an exposed Polaroid image somewhere within my sight in the apartment, the car, or the studio. I would leave it for a period of time and then would decide whether or not to keep the image as part of a collection. At irregular intervals, I would sift through the box and the whole procedure would repeat itself. The images here constitute the focus of the current project and they came to life without a unifying concept or an overarching idea, but strictly out of my desire to photograph, and not out of a desire to stay true to a theme, which I didn't have anyway.

It is a refreshing diversion – this appropriation or even adoption of one's own pictures. All in all there came to be 500 photographs in this series. To be able to manage them and to create some order, I began cataloguing the images. The established tentative order comprises the following areas: things, vehicles and boats, garden, home, landscape, people, places, plants, portrait, sand-beach-stones, animals, walls and pictures, living spaces. It's not about what touches me in my surroundings, it's about the content of my surroundings.

This is neither a diary nor a collection of different impressions – it is rather a sampling, a round- up of my surroundings. The artwork is grounded in the medium itself.