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Really True

Multimedia works from New York in Roland Aphot Gallery

Hannes Nuesseler:

Three artists from New York, two German and one Colombian, weave delicate stories around the Big Apple.

“The true nature of things, truth... I do not know.”

“But you know reality.”

“Reality is not the truth - reality is only a part.”

This quote from Sandor Marai doesn't feel imposed on the Multimedia Exhibition “Anja Mohn and Friends from New York”. The quote truly is the subtext of the show and like sensual reality and meaningful truth form each other in this dialogue, the works in this show curated by the German artist are brought into a fruitful dialogue and context.

On “Shinyoku Shadow”, a photograph by Alejandro Jaimes-Larrarte, a woman with a purse rushes across a plaza; the sound of her heels is synaesthetically frozen in the hard contrast of the picture's light and dark. One almost wishes the person were marking the exact center of the stone ornament, but an unidentifiable power sabotages the fetishism of the image.

The handbag as a symbol of urban reality can also be found in Renate Aller and Anja Mohn's sound piece “While you were gone,” an object made from translucent acrylic. Inside of it lie dried flower petals, and a voice tells us of the myth of love. The 30-year old flower petals came into the artists' possession by chance, when a friend was cleaning out his apartment, and in that way the installation also tells us, ‘on the side,’ a story of daily life in New York.

Hypnotic. In a series of large format photos, Renate Aller intentionally turns her back on urban life, literally. The viewer is turned away from the monumental verticality of the city on to the Atlantic ocean, where dramatic cloud formation rest on a silver shining stripe of light reflecting on the horizon.

With “CityScape,” Anja Mohn finally reveals the Manhattan skyline, whose memorable vista still suffers from the loss of the Twin Towers. One could believe the image was a photo, but actually it is a 24-minute metamorphosis, during which the skyscrapers slowly emerge from the dawn twilight into increasing plasticity, a miniature of enormous hypnotic power.

Roland Aphot Gallery
Allschwil, Basel, Weiherweg 3
Through February 11, 2006