

PRESSRELEASE

JOHANNES SCHWARTZ BLUE, TURNING GREY OVER YOU

9 September – 21 October 2017

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents *Blue, Turning Grey over You*, the third solo-show by Johannes Schwartz (1970, München) with the gallery.



The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of Dutch avant-garde movement De Stijl. For his new works, Schwartz was inspired by original photo albums of De Stijl's most prominent member, Piet Mondrian, which he found at the RKD (Netherlands Institute for Art History). These photo albums were designed by Mondrian in order to show his works to a broader audience. They encompass black and white reproductions (the only available medium at that time) of his paintings, each accompanied by the list of colors in which they were painted.

Johannes Schwartz, *I'm sitting on top of the world*, 2017

Schwartz found the fact that the viewer had to re-imagine the colors fascinating, given the importance of the composition to Mondrian. Taking a closer look, one will discover that in the series *Horizon*, Schwartz digitally manipulated Mondrian's paintings by 'drawing' a line in the middle of each of them, creating a horizon. The work undermines Mondrian's strive for the ultimate image and questions the functionality of the photographic reproduction. With his works Schwartz researches, in line with Mondrian, the possibilities of reproduction with contemporary techniques.

Music, jazz in particular, played an important part in Mondrian's life and artistic practice. It appears that the painter repeatedly turned toward new music, giving away old records once he was done with them. Schwartz photographed the collection of discarded records and arranged them in collages, creating a kaleidoscope of inspirations that can no longer be traced.

For *Tafel #1* Schwartz reproduced Mondrian's personal address book in negative. As a 'Who is Who' of modernism, it works as a blueprint of the painter's artistic environment. It is accompanied by a sound installation in which the names are read out loud, taking you back in time.

With *Blue, Turning Grey Over You* Schwartz manages to express that what is absent can speak as much to your imagination as what is in front of you. The creative process is completed and personalized in the viewers' mind. The Mondrian we see might be something quite different from what the painter saw himself.

On Friday night 22 September Johannes Schwartz will present the newest edition in the *High Series*, an ongoing succession of publications in collaboration with graphic designers Experimental Jetset, in the gallery. During the event Wietse Coppes (Mondrian expert at the RKD) will give a presentation on Piet Mondrian, his studio and his relationship towards photography.

Johannes Schwartz (Munich, 1970) is living and working in Amsterdam. He studied photography at Gerrit Rietveld Academy between 1995 and 1998. At the Rietveld Academy, he has been head of the photography department (2004-2010), where he is still teaching. He participated in 'Opera Aperta / Loose Work', the Dutch entry to the Venice Biennale 2011 and his work has been collected by the Stedelijk Museum and Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam among others.