

Exhibition CHRISTOPH KELLER  
May - August 2003  
The series RUNDUM – MENSCHEN



*Salarimen*, from the series „Rundum-Menschen“, 2002, Lambda Color Print on Paper, 19 x 185cm, framed, Ed. 1/6

Christoph Keller's artistic work unfolds its whole intellectual and social potential only by perceiving it with the knowledge about his interdisciplinary approach. For this proceeding the artist living in Berlin and New York has – from the very beginning - looked for "things that can potentially exist on their own outside the art context, that, for example, can stand on their own before the reality requirements of scientific disciplines and, at the same time, incorporate their own mental framework and are therefore aesthetic."

Christoph Keller has not entered upon a traditional artistic career: Short after his studies of mathematics-physics-hydrology he started communicating the inventions (in the fields of applied physics) he'd taken out patents for, in an artistic way. His first patent he'd communicated artistically was "Helioflex" – a kind of a satellite bowl which doesn't provide access to TV channels but which channels sunlight in urban spaces/ rooms remaining always or very often in the dark. In order to bypass the sunlight during the whole day, the "Helioflex" functions like heliotropic plants – it reliably follows the path of the sun.

For the exhibited images Keller has developed and taken out a patent for a camera with which "the film is pulled steadily along a fixed exposure slit. Though the resulting image on the filmstrip is static, it contains the movement of the camera during the recording. If the camera is posed before an unmoving background, it reveals even, horizontal lines on the film. A picture ensues only through the movement of an object. What results is a photographic diagram of movements. Fast objects are compressed, slow ones elongated. It is as if the observer would perceive the world through a crack in a door, along which things pass by. In an instant he can see the movements of an interval of time and thereby experiences himself in that moment in motion. The Self is thereby extended, spatially and temporally. The vertical axis of the Rundum picture corresponds to a realistic reproduction of the space. The horizontal axis of the picture, on the other hand, represents time and space, that is, motion." KF

Quotations from: Christoph Keller's lecture "Die Bilder der Physik – Die Physik der Bilder", lecture, Berlin, May96