

Moonstruck. Photographic Explorations

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The way the Apollo astronauts portrayed the Moon in words and images was sober and straight-forward (the complete sound recordings are freely available on the NASA website). Their language was technical and characterised by jargon and dry humour. There was no room for poetic metaphors. In stark contrast to this, Daniela Keiser (Switzerland, born 1963) returns the Moon to the realm of human, sensual experience. Her wall installation *Temporary Urban Spaces* (2017 – 2018) follows the most palpable influence of the Moon on our planet: the tides. For a period of six months, Keiser repeatedly visited the banks of the River Thames in London, where the tidal range can be as much as seven metres. What she witnessed there proved to be unexpectedly magical – bright green and brown mosses in vertical gardens, colourful pebbles and polished bricks, a sheer infinite diversity of patterns and colour variations. Temporary spaces emerge and disappear again in rhythm with the pulse of the Thames. Keiser works with repetitions, variations, and slight shifts that sharpen our perception. None of the pictures shows the sky or any buildings. The only thing we see are the foundations of the city – an invitation to imagine our own castles in the sky. As previously seen in her work *bergen* (2011 – 2013) which addresses the theme of the rubble mountains of Berlin, she is particularly interested in the foundations upon which our society is built. The artist approaches this topic using an indirect, abstract, and at the same time highly poetic metaphor.

Sascha Renner