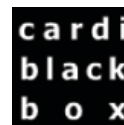




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Birgit Jürgenssen

11.04.01

AUTHOR: SABINE B. VOGEL

10.16.01-12.20.01 *Galerie Hubert Winter, Vienna*

• Birgit Jürgenssen's Thawed Image

The entire front window of Galerie Winter is filled with an oversized photograph of a yellow Renault 4 buried in snow. The car, an out-of-date model, is slightly dented. What is this mysteriously mundane image trying to put us in the mood for? A winter image? A play on words? An image that both shows us something and obscures the view into the gallery? The exhibition hidden behind the photograph doesn't offer an answer exactly, but it does give us some clues. "I DON'T KNOW" is written in the corner in small letters. Inside, Jürgenssen presents an *Anthology of Vision*, 2001, comprising color photographs, digital photographs, and videos: a forest, a shopwindow, distorted figures, two toy pistols united as if for a kiss. All featuring strong, candid subjects with a strong visual presence, the images grow mysterious as you study them, either by themselves or in certain combinations. There are also resonances of the image of the snowed in Renault here: In one, a patch of snow has just thawed. Below the white covering there appears something familiar, something that seems incidental but that actually contains personal references. It turns out to be Jürgenssen's own Renault that the snow now sets free, not an object interesting or notable in itself, but at least worth a closer look. Jürgenssen's exhibition presents exactly that: a collection of thawed images, unfrozen from their generic nature as signs.

Translated from German by Diana Reese.