Diverse but united

"An improvised machine drawing in its own coffee, people barking, brandished and soaked by their own eruption on the maps of society or played in such absurd ways that the viewer is left startled and puzzled. Now in its 30th year, gute arbeiten 2013/2014 presents a range of surprisingly diverse ideas, reflections and photographic strategies, terms and media that not only depict the current status quo but also inspire," the curators note in their statement on the exhibition.

However, the announcement also underlines there is an element that unites all these works: "It is the way in which they do not fully accept their premises, the very way in which they resist both by convention and the way that they suggest all possibilities and intersections. This refusal is the common theme that runs throughout these nine works. Hope and desire, physical laws imposed, the limitations of media overcome and viewing habits turned upside down.

The statement continues: "Nothing is what it seems. But still it is just the way it is. This generation of young photographers brings up painful subjects, by making them visible and perceptible.

They bring ideas that resonate, dignity and truth back into the picture, forcing us to look at them in new conditions and to think about those values. And - the way we see it - these ideas are essential for us and for the present age."

Nudja Boumerzoula, A Convention Act (2019)

only 12 out of 40 apartments still have tenants, Stephanie Seckendorf's photographs tell the stories of unfulfilled hopes, aging, destruction and welfare. They show the other side of the coin that is the economic order Germany - and this side is not so shiny.

Daniel Stubenvoll: Meat Work - Part I and II (Goethe Artbelt) (2013)

Daniel Stubenvoll is not afraid to ask the most fundamental questions: where does novelty come from, and how does it come about? A possible answer to him is that everything begins with a correspondence - that is the foundation of every work, an idea which he sets into photography. And Daniel Stubenvoll is certain of this: the work must be "clear" like a building. In "Clarity Works" Stubenvoll cannot only work about this connection to his fellow students from different artistic disciplines, but also his own correspondence-photography, which takes its inspiration from the diverse work of his fellows.

Christina Werner: PIPAL (2012/2013)

An herbarium case with leaves of the Pipal tree (native in India, et al.), six so-called "Bienenbilder" ("Concrete Image"), 12 snapshots, and an MDP panel are the components of Christina Werner's installation. They form an ensemble of different spaces on both sides of the river in Ahmedabad, an emerging metropolis in the state of Gujarat in western India, and become a promenade through the city. With a clear mooring in the conceptual, Werner's work is exemplary for how it manages to circumnavigate the cliffs of expected images, offering an entirely new way of seeing.

gute ansehen: new German photography 2013/2014 is on until April 30, open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 7 pm. Entrance is free.

The Goethe-Institut is situated at 51, Mackenzie Drive, near the Leela Palace checkpoint, in Nairobi. Visit http://www.goethe.de, e-mail info@nairobi.goethe.org or call 20674908 for more information.

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