

Lichtlose Luft: Staub und Verschwinden Zeichen Lightless Air: Drawing Dust and Disappearance

Johanna Love 2017



This publication presents the beginning of a new project by British artist Johanna Love, who is currently working closely with scientists at The Natural History Museum, London and The Regional Planetary Image Facility (RPIF) at UCL, London. Through a combination of photography and drawing, the project seeks to examine problems of human perception in relation to modern technology. It questions the scientific image as one that remains detached and outside of our experience, sitting at the precipice of our perceptual understanding, and making visible matter that is beyond human vision. The publication brings together the first body of work made by Johanna Love working with scientists, an essay by Curator Magdalena Wisniowska, GiG Gallery, Munich, and writings by two scientists, Dr Alex Ball and Dr Peter Grindrod, who discuss their roles and experiences of imagery obtained from two very opposing distances – gathering images from space, and from the microscope.

What drives this project is a fascination with how tiny specks of dust – what seems most insubstantial – has the material power to fascinate, to generate and to sustain thought. The scientific technical image is a starting point for the work, either obtained through the electron microscope or the digital scanner. However, it is always submitted to some kind of digital manipulation and then manual intervention through drawing. In drawing from or within the original photographic image, there is a critique of technology and a questioning of the scientific approach. Through the process of drawing and digital manipulation, there is an attempt to bring the image back into the physical, material world of the living and imagination, for as Merleau Ponty (1964) states, 'science manipulates things and gives up living in them.'

Johanna Love is an artist and academic living in London. She is currently MA Printmaking Pathway Leader at Camberwell College of Arts and Senior Lecturer in Fine Art Printmaking at the University of Brighton. She exhibits widely both nationally and internationally. Recent exhibitions include *Johanna Love*, GiG Gallery, Munich; *A small constellation of photographic evidence*, Cheng Art Gallery, Beijing; *Behind the eyes: making pictures*, Gallery North, Newcastle; *Viewfinder*, Artspaceh Gallery, Seoul, Korea; *British Printmaking Japan*, Kyoto Museum & Art Gallery, Japan; *Scope: New Photographic Practices*, Tsinghua University, Beijing.

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