

Archiv Peter Piller
Materialien (D)
Peripheriewanderung Graz

steirischer herbst
ISBN 978-3-900508-83-8 (Camera Austria)

Out now:

**Archiv Peter Piller
Materialien (D)
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Edition Camera Austria, Graz 2010

Ed. steirischer herbst

128 pages, 15,5 cm x 20,5 cm,

62 colour plates, soft cover

ISBN: 978-3-900508-83-8

EUR 18,-

In connection with his contribution to this year's "Randnotizen" (Marginal Notes) at steirischer herbst, Peter Piller was invited in spring 2010 to carry out a "Peripheriewanderung" (Periphery Hike) in Graz. The artist hiked around the periphery of Graz, on the border between developed and undeveloped land, between urban offshoots and rural areas. Piller has put together a selection of the photographs that he took on this hike for volume D of the "Archiv Peter Piller – Materialien" series, that was published by Edition Camera Austria as a co-production with steirischer herbst.

The perception of Peter Piller's work was influenced above all by his projects with pictures gleaned from local newspapers and sorted according to subject matter, that are compiled in the "Archiv Peter Piller". Starting from there, the artist also examined other archives, for example an archive of aerial photographs of private homes that he purchased from a company's estate in 2002, or, in 2006, the archive of a works newspaper in the Netherlands, or, in 2007, the archive of a Swiss insurance company's claims department. Although Piller always took his own photos, too, he never focused on the contradiction between the found photographs and his own works. Rather, his own photographs are also incorporated as material into the "Archiv Peter Piller".

A common focus of both visual strategies is the interest in the seemingly unimportant and trivial, those pictures that get sorted out, that attract no attention – without, however, romanticising the everyday and the banal, without seeking to find anything special in the ordinary. The images published in "Peripheriewanderung" do not describe any specific urban or regional context either, do not construct any peculiarities, but rather create a field of contradictory and heterogeneous images, unconnected impressions that are only set and contextualised in and by the book.

Since 1997, Piller has published numerous books from the archive of his own and found works. For him the book is a central medium with which to organise and order the insurveyable visual field of photography and to create contexts that can be found neither in the pictures nor in reality itself. The fact that this is ultimately a method involving great depth of focus perhaps only becomes apparent at second glance: the traces that Piller lays out in his pictures above all address the question of pictorial conventions, i.e. the concomitant interests, perceptions,

allocations and hierarchisations of photographic images that describe them as a kind of "cultural text" and that would seem to be the true "object" of Peter Piller's interventions.

Camera Austria published a contribution with and about Peter Piller in the issue 89/2005, and the artist has taken part in the two exhibition projects "First the artist defines meaning" (2006) and "Then the work takes place" (2009).

Peter Piller was born in Fritzlar in 1968. He studied at the Academy of Visual Arts in Hamburg. Since 2006 he has been professor for "Photography in the field of contemporary art" at the Academy of Visual Arts in Leipzig. Peter Piller lives in Hamburg.

We would like to thank you in advance for editorial coverage in your medium and we are happy to provide you with a review copy.

<http://randnotizen.steirischerherbst.at/>
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