



Untitled

MARTIN KLIMAS

Nationality: German
Lives and works: Düsseldorf, GER
Website: www.martin-klimas.de

Martin Klimas graduated in 2000 at the Fachhochschule in Düsseldorf, in Visual Communication. He is a photographer who sees himself as a sculptor, but one who has only a millisecond to build his artwork. With his photographs Martin Klimas shortly brings the clock to a halt to show the shortness of the moment.



Untitled

Vases falling on the floor and bursting into hundreds of pieces and water drops, exploding telephones, kitsch porcelain statutes smashing on the floor: there is nothing the German photographer Martin Klimas (1971, Singen) loves to photograph more than objects being smashed to bits. He shoots the objects exactly at the moment that they touch the ground. Directly after they are thrown and exactly before the mess lies joyless on the ground and a last splinter still rolls softly over the floor. In short: he has a fraction of a second to show what our bare eye cannot perceive, namely how beautiful it is when a vase or statue crashes.



Untitled

'One day my coffee cup smashed on a white floor and the parts were everywhere,' Klimas tells. 'I wondered what would happen in the time I closed my eyes, and if I could get an image of this. This was the beginning.'



Untitled

Klimas is not interested in violence. It is the brevity of the moment that fascinates him. One moment something can be situated on top of a cupboard and the next moment it can be an explosion of pieces of glass. In between there is merely time, but a great transformation takes place. To make that photograph in that millisecond that best describes that transformation, timing and punctuality are the dictating circumstances. High quality technology is not the only thing Klimas needs. He also lets chance play a role. The Kung fu-statue breaks much nicer this time than the other and thus many objects are smashed to pieces before the ultimate photograph is taken. 'The shooting environment must be controlled and kept consistent,' Klimas starts to reveal his secret. The lighting is clear and direct, head on. My background is neutral, but bright enough so that the shattering object completely stands out. I drop the figure. When the figure hits the ground, the sound triggers releases the camera.' And even than some 150 vases break before he has 25 suitable photographs.

That Martin Klimas is a great admirer of Eadweard Muybridge is not surprising. This British photographer of origin was the first to make photographs where the exposure time only lasted a fraction of a second. Until that time exposure time was not shorter than a couple of seconds. It enabled him using photography to research if a galloping horse comes completely from the ground. Also Muybridge was the first to ever use a mechanic quick-acting shutter. Just like Martin Klimas he tries to freeze the time to show that what normally would not be visible.

by Elsbeth Grievink

