

LOUVRE

Press release
Musée du Louvre
Salle de la Maquette

October 18, 2006 -
January 15, 2007



Musée du Louvre Paris XVI, Peinture Française, 2005
© Candida Höfer/VG Bild-Kunst Bonn 2005.

A publication is scheduled to coincide with this exhibition:

Candida Höfer: Louvre,
Cologne: Schirmel/Mosel, 2006, €39.80

Visitor information

Press Opening:
October 17 at 6 p.m.

Place

Musée du Louvre, Sully Wing, Moats of the Medieval Louvre, Salle de la Maquette

Hours

Open daily except Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and until 10 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays

Further information

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www.louvre.fr

Candida Höfer

Louvre

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of Neuflyze Vie

Following upon earlier exhibitions of works by the contemporary photographers Patrick Faigenbaum (2004) and Jean-Luc Moulène (2005), and in conjunction with the official Month of the Photo in Paris, the Louvre welcomes Candida Höfer, the internationally renowned German artist and photographer. Nine large-format photographs representing a selection of galleries at the Louvre enhance visitors' appreciation of the museum, allowing them to immerse themselves in the luxurious decoration of these spaces emptied of their customary flow of humanity.

Born in Eberswalde, near Berlin, in 1944, Candida Höfer attended the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf from 1973 to 1982, where she studied film under Ole John and photography under Bernd Becher. Since 1975, she has participated in numerous group as well as solo exhibitions. In 2002, she presented her cycle *Zwölf – Twelve*, based on the celebrated sculpture by Rodin, *The Burghers of Calais*, at Documenta 11 in Kassel. In 2003, she represented Germany at the Venice Biennale together with the late Martin Kippenberger.

From her earliest creations in the 1970s, Candida Höfer has been interested in representing public spaces devoid of all human presence. Far from being chosen at random, these places evoke universal cultural themes and encyclopedic knowledge and have included cultural institutions (museums, libraries, national archives) and public buildings (places of worship, opera houses) accustomed to being filled with visitors. Her attention is directed in particular to the spatial dimension of these places. Candida Höfer's work as an artist requires both objectivity and the maintenance of a certain distance vis-à-vis her subjects. Her highly individual style relies on meticulous composition, in keeping with the photographic traditions of the Düsseldorf school, and is obtained through the use of a view camera and the natural lighting of these interior spaces.

Candida Höfer explored the Louvre on a day when the museum was closed to the public, in order to select a group of painting and sculpture galleries as photographic subjects. In the Salle de la Maquette, she presents large-format color photographs offering the viewer virtually pictorial compositions with central viewpoints and the infinite play of perspectives. By confronting the emptiness of the spaces photographed with the emotional and historical resonance of the Louvre, her creations pay homage to the architectural force of the palace and the majesty of the works exhibited in their immense diversity.

Exhibition curator:

Marie-Laure Bernadac, chief curator, special advisor on contemporary art at the Louvre

Friday, December 15 at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium du Louvre

Event in the series "Face to Face"

Candida Höfer: Photography and Architecture

Discussion with Candida Höfer, artist, Cologne, Johannes Kühn, architect, Berlin, and Axel Sowa, editor-in-chief, *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui*, Paris.

Communications

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