

No Gravitation

By Armin Linke

text by Elina Axioti

http://www.floatermagazine.com/issue01/No_Gravitation/



Armin Linke, *Star City ZPK, astronaut dressing, Moscow, Russia, 1998*. Courtesy Armin Linke.

“The sequence of images I'm working on is a search for utopian places that already exist and have, or had, utopian potential.”¹

Armin Linke, photographer and filmmaker, is working on an ongoing archive about human activity and the variations of natural and man-made landscapes. Through his photographs, he aims to document scenes in which the boundary between fiction and non-fiction blurs or becomes invisible.

In 1998, Linke photographed the International Space Base (ILA International Luft und Raumfahrtstellung) in Berlin and the Star City ZPK in Star City near Moscow. Astronauts' uniforms, control consoles, weightlessness simulations systems and processes were captured by his lens. This series of images, present an artificial landscape, a man made technological entity that creates simulations of fluid spaces. Linke's images attempt to narrate how people interact in these free-gravity environments. His photographs acquire an additional anthropological utility, by presenting a seemingly distant reality. They allow a new physical perception by demonstrating the human living in liquid, unstable conditions; in spaces of continuous floating.

“Photography in itself doesn't interest me much; what interests me more is what to photograph and how to distribute the image.”²

These images are part of the *Book on Demand*³, an interactive archive of Linke's pictures that was first presented in the Utopia Station, Venice Biennial, 2003. The *Book on Demand* contains a series of images registered with keywords under certain categories in a software. The software allows the viewer to select and compose his own sequences of images and finally order a personalised book on demand. Classification and categorization are notions familiar to Linke's work. His projects include contemporary strategies of archiving and representation. The photographer employs different ways of displaying his infinite archive, in an indecipherable relationship between photography and art.

Notes

¹ Stefano Boeri, Hans Ulrich Obrist, *Linkemania: a polyphonic interview with Armin Linke*, Flash Art 264 (June/July 2002)

² idem

³ Armin Linke, *A book on demand*, www.arminlinke.com (July 15, 2008)

floaters Issue 01 - On Floatation

<http://www.floatermagazine.com/issue01/>

Floaters is an architectural online production. Contributions are assembled by different editors for each issue around a theme. Floaters aims to present not the contemporaneity of architecture, but amalgamations of essays, articles, past and present projects within processes of recollection, appropriation and archiving.

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