

F&D Cartier "GOING EAST" 2021

Concept

Quotation by Anton Chekhov: from The Cherry Orchard, the last play by Russian playwright:
»All of Russia is our cherry orchard. The land is vast and beautiful, there are many splendid places....
It is so clear that in order to begin to live in the present, we must first redeem our past, put an end to it, and it can only be redeemed at the price of suffering, at the cost of untold and unremitting toil.
Understand this, Ania."

Between 2014 and 2019, we had the opportunity to travel 4 times to the former USSR as artist-in-residence: in Kaunas Lithuania, St Petersburg, Moscow, Yekaterinburg, Kazan. We met great people there, but also felt a certain tension towards V. Putin's regime.

In April 2020 we were officially invited by a Moscow Art School to give a lecture and present our artists' books. The covid decided otherwise...

In 2021, we worked on a series of very damaged 6x6 colour slides (ca.1970), found in a cellar in Switzerland. These images evoke both our impressions/memories and a strange premonition of the disaster that was to come last 24 February 2022.

The body of work « *Going East* », 2021 presented here exemplifies our minimalist camera-less tendencies, and our questioning of everyday life, intimacy, the passing of time.

Introduction David Drake, *Director Ffotogallery Wales*

The relationships between photography and time are manifold: time can be directly represented within the image, it can be its theme and philosophical horizon, and it can also represent the historical and conceptual framework in which photographic practices develop and change through time....

F&D Cartier recognise that objects and images have temporal characteristics; they emerge from a given time and are experienced in a particular historical context. However, some objects and images possess an extraordinary presence and qualities that transcend the specifics of time and place. The photographic image does not need to remain ontologically bound to a single moment in time, it can evolve independently and give rise to new meanings and readings. The works of F&D Cartier exploit the paradoxical character of photography and its durational nature, to create beguiling and meditative artworks that involve an overlapping of past and present, the historical and actual.