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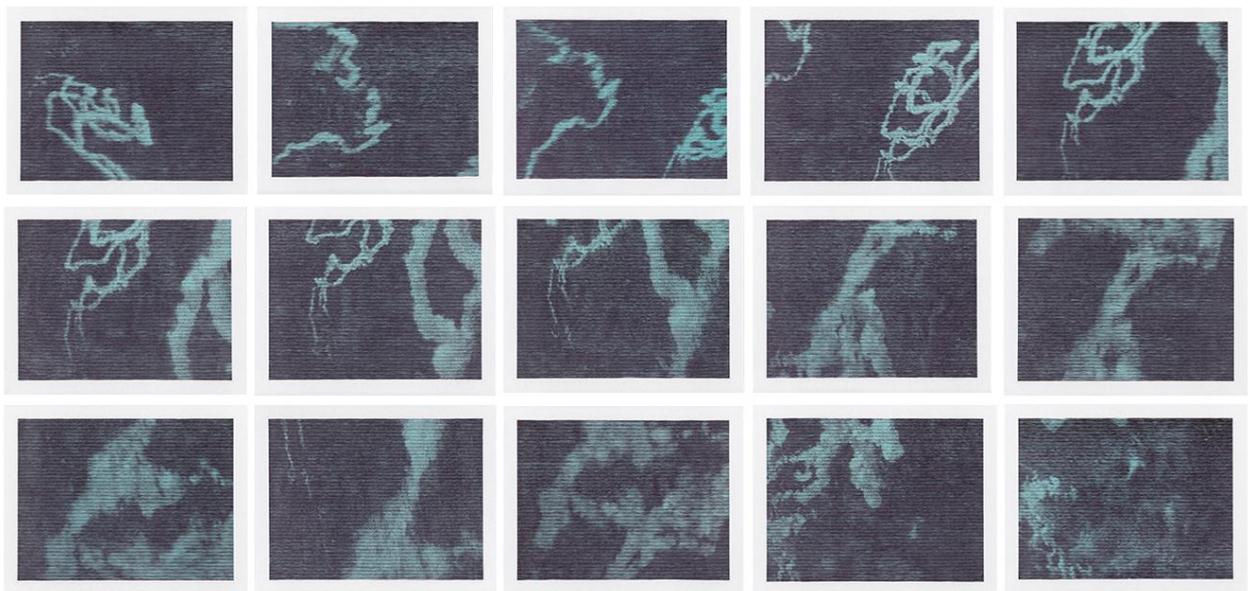
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The Alan Cristea Gallery at
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Christiane Baumgartner:
Totentanz

21 November 2014 – 24 January 2015

Private View: Thursday 20 November, 6 pm – 7.30pm



Christiane Baumgartner, *Totentanz*, 2013, Series of 15 woodcuts on paper, Paper 75.5x96 cm, Image 63.5x84 cm each,
Courtesy of artist and Alan Cristea Gallery

Alan Cristea Gallery proudly presents a solo show of new work by **Christiane Baumgartner** coinciding with her major touring exhibition *White Noise*, hosted in significant museums throughout Europe in 2014-2015.

The artist works out of studios in the famous Leipzig Cotton Mill (Leipziger Baumwollspinnerei), which became known as a base for the *New Leipzig School* of artists. She has developed her practice throughout times of dramatic political and cultural changes in East Germany.

Baumgartner is known for her monumental woodcuts taken from her own video stills. She is interested in the contrast between the modern and sometimes distanced process of shooting digital video and the physicality of creating prints using ancient woodcutting techniques. She also discusses how the centuries-old, labour-intensive process of cutting a printing block from wood offers space for reflection on the fleeting moments that were captured in the original video image with such immediacy. By combining two seemingly opposing mediums, notions of time, movement and transition are embedded within the artist's conceptually rich prints.

For her third solo exhibition at the Alan Cristea Gallery, Baumgartner is presenting three new bodies of work. *Totentanz*, (Dance of Death) a new 15-part work printed in electric blue, depicts the smoke trails of a plane which has been shot down and is falling from the sky. *Deep Water*, a new diptych of

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the reflections in a canal, is a multi-coloured work, a move away from the artist's usual monochromatic pieces. The title references the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010, which happened whilst the artist was participating in a residency in Birmingham, when she collected the footage for the piece.

Baumgartner's work often has multiple meanings and relates to war and the environment. A series of forest scenes, *Wald bei Colditz* (Wood near Colditz) return to the simplicity of black and white in dramatic depictions of a wooded landscape. Colditz for the British has particular connotations (the castle in the town was used as a prisoner-of-war camp which officers repeatedly escaped) which the artist is quite happy to reference;

"It has a strong relationship to World War II in Britain (also because of the movie) and in a way I don't mind the connection... I quite like that it brings this meaning to this piece of the forest... Colditz is a kind of a small triumph against the Nazis." – Christiane Baumgartner

Christiane Baumgartner will give a public talk at the Alan Cristea Gallery on Thursday 20 November at 5pm. This will be followed by the Private View, 6pm - 7.30 pm. During the Private View the Alan Cristea Gallery will be exclusively selling a limited edition print, *White Noise*. An edition of over 60, the gallery will have 20 copies for sale at £250.

Notes to Editors

About Christiane Baumgartner

Christiane Baumgartner was born in 1967 in Leipzig, Germany, and studied there at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst before completing her Masters in Printmaking at the Royal College of Art in London in 1999. She now lives and works in Leipzig.

She first came to public attention in the UK in EAST international in 2004 and a year later with a major solo exhibition at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham. She was included in the groundbreaking exhibition at MoMA, NY, called *Eye on Europe* and her work is held in over 40 public collections around the world including the Albertina, Vienna; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

In the past year the artist has featured in many significant UK group exhibitions including *Estuary*, Museum of London Docklands; *Continental Drift*, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; *Catalyst: Contemporary Art and War*, Imperial War Museum North, Salford, UK; *The Negligent Eye*, Bluecoat, Liverpool and both *Thirteen* and *Conflicted Memory* at Alan Cristea Gallery.

Her solo exhibition *White Noise* started at **Centre de la Gravure in La Louvière**, Belgium and in September 2014 travels to **Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf** and the **Musée d'art et d'histoire, Genève** in 2015. A fully illustrated 160 page catalogue published by Scheidegger & Spiess accompanies the exhibition. The catalogue features texts by Tobias Burg, Catherine de Braekeleer, Thomas Oberender, Christian Rümelin and Helen Waters (Alan Cristea Gallery) and is available in both French and German, with an English summary.

Baumgartner was recently awarded the prestigious Mario Avati Printmaking Prize, 2014 by the Académie des beaux-arts, Paris.

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About Alan Cristea Gallery

One of the leading commercial contemporary galleries in Europe, the Alan Cristea Gallery is the primary representative for a number of established international contemporary artists, artists' estates and emerging artists. The gallery opened at 31 Cork Street in 1995 and since then has expanded to a second exhibition space at 34 Cork Street, with both galleries showing a continuous programme of exhibitions including contemporary paintings, works on paper, sculpture and installations. In addition, the gallery is known for its commitment to original prints and editions, commissioning and facilitating innovative projects by outstanding artists, and is the largest publisher of contemporary editions and prints in Europe.

The gallery is a member of the International Fine Print Dealers Association and Alan Cristea is treasurer of the Society of London Art Dealers.

Exhibition Facts

Title: Christiane Baumgartner: *Totentanz*
Address: Alan Cristea Gallery, 34 Cork Street, London W1
Telephone: +44 (0) 207 439 1866
Website: www.alancristea.com
Dates: 21 November 2014 – 24 January 2015
Closed 24 December 2014 – 4 January 2015
Opening Hours: 10am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-2pm Sat
Admission: Free
Travel: Piccadilly, Green Park or Bond Street Tube Station

Christiane Baumgartner: *Totentanz* runs alongside the exhibition Mark Neville: *London/ Pittsburgh* (20 November 2014 – 24 January 2014) which will be exhibited at 31 Cork Street.

For press information and images please contact:

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