

Homely/Unheimlich

James Voller

My practice is concerned with both documentary photography and photographic superimposition. Previous works have aimed to comment on social growth and development in New Zealand. Highlighting these shifts helps us to acknowledge the environments and times in which New Zealanders exist. The documentary style photographs survey areas where there have been changes and shifts to commercial and residential environments and the subsequent relationships that these changes create with their inhabitants. The photographic superimpositions I create are manifested as both public and gallery interventions. Altering urban and transitory spaces through inserting photographs of residential dwellings, generates areas where illusion and actuality exist simultaneously; one sees buildings and structures where they do not actually exist. These altered spaces reflect growth and change.

In my current body of work I am looking at how construction is a major element of change within society and is thus a key indicator of economic, political and social trends. In the same way construction is also relevant to the styles of photography within my practice. While more evident within photographic intervention, construction is still a predominant part of documentary photography, an element which is often overlooked. Examining construction through and in photography allows us to look at the future of the photograph and its role in helping us define our sense of place.

Homely/Unheimlich will employ photographic prints that convey shifts to the New Zealand and Austrian social environments, as well as large-scale photographic interventions. The show aims to test the current strategies employed in my practice. Shifting the environment in which I work will enable me to expand my practice cross-culturally and allow me to compare and contrast shifts to both people and places and how they react within their specific place and time.

Alongside my show at Kunstverein Baden at I will be creating public interventions in Krems and Vienna.