

Cameradreams

Karen Stuke's photographs leave space for a lot of associations. First of all there is the light. Light allows us to perceive scenarios that take place in the dark.

Photographs are 'light pictures'. Light is the essence of photography, its actual medium. But for Stuke light is more than just a medium, it is the subject of photography as well. Then her photos are defined by space. They engage with spaces and are created within them. A third factor that characterises her pictures is the movement. This appears fleetingly, and is not registered in the single decisive moment of a photographic shot, but holistically and with temporal duration.

Hours go by while the camera obscura gradually collects and saves the images of darkness. Only towards morning will its intimate view be terminated, as day breaks. What remains are slow, peaceful pictures on the border between closeness and distance, between day and dream....

The sleep pictures occupy a surprising place within this oeuvre. Here the photographer has observed herself over the course of a night. Hours pass, and the camera, set up calmly with opened shutter, gradually captures and stores the impressions of the darkness. Only as dawn arrives does this intimate view end – the day begins. Left behind are calm and peaceful photographs revealing the boundary between closeness and distance, between day and dream. Yet this silent witness is unable to record the dreams of the young sleeper.

(Gottfried Jäger from the book: The trilogy of time, or: I don't mind waiting!)