

# SHANE CAMPBELL GALLERY

Flash Art  
October 2010

## REVIEWS

### MARGARETE JAKSCHIK GISELA CAPITAIN - COLOGNE



Margarete Jakschik's third solo exhibition at Gisela Capitain in Cologne departs from her debut. We first saw the German-trained photographer exploring Southern California through a wide angle, as an outsider. Four years later, in fifteen new moderately sized color photos Jakschik points the camera towards the vagaries of LA conceptualism. Unexpected discoveries gave the first exhibition a photo essay feel. LA's randomness has since been internalized.

No clear working process emerges in these details except that originals are given the camouflage of found images. We don't

know which is "hers," only that every image is expertly trimmed. Visually incisive and cropped to perfection, they defy interpretation and conform to nonconformity.

Perhaps this sense of style over substance can be explained by her relocation to the city. What made LA work has in the past made LA artists work too: Ed Ruscha's Sunset Strip, John Baldessari's 'mapping' of California or Bruce Nauman's early play with window signs that offered conceptual impressions in the neon letters found along its famous boulevards. Pretexts came easy for these young wandering anguses. Jakschik appears quite aware that whether you're talking about Hollywood or reality, the city's visual culture unavoidably attaches itself to its art.

Running with the baton, Jakschik strays from clear messages while exhibiting poise and versatility within her chosen medium. Notably she shuns a predictably German approach to her environment. There is nothing monumental here.

Instead, as the title suggests, Jakschik frames time as non-specific. It is lusty and admirably kitsch. The objects in *It Will Take a Long Time*

2021 S WABASH AVE  
CHICAGO IL 60616  
+1 (312) 226 2223

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are dispossessed of brooding tendencies. The pictures are open, evolving freely in a separate time.

Indisposed to the conclusiveness now synonymous with her Düsseldorf teachers, she finds inanimate subjects that unconsciously lure us instead of consciously repel us. Is this self-described “long time” a new artist finding her niche? We don’t know and we don’t need to know, not yet.

*Matthew Schum*



Above: MARGARETE JAKSCHIK, Untitled, 2010. C-print, 27 x 35 cm. Left: MARGARETE JAKSCHIK, Untitled, 2010. C-print, 45 x 35 cm. Courtesy Gisela Capitain, Cologne.

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