

Zander Blom, *The Black Hole Universe*, Mapping The Void

5x6x9, Kollwitzstraße 51, 10405 Berlin

June 12 – September 26, 2010

Zander Blom's complex installations always make a fleeting impression and have a short half-life. The site-specific photographs in the *Black Hole Universe* series, also the context for the in-situ installation at 5x6x9, make it possible to look specifically at the way the artist works. Zander Blom is creating his own "open, abstract and strange, but at the same time chaotic world" in this long-term series. Each of the installations also provides the background for a "futuristic Sci-Fi Noir Space Film," as the artist puts it, each of the photographs is to be seen as a still showing a scene from this film.

Zander Blom's artistic activity started in 2004 via an intensive analysis of American and European art history. "I was aware that there were scarcely any things less relevant to my life than pictures by Mondrian or Jackson Pollock, but I felt drawn towards these works of art by my interest in old art books." Blom confirmed his continuing interest in 20th century modern and abstract avant-garde movements and the stylistic tendencies associated with them in an impressive publication that looks like an index of works for a successful artist. Blom's approach addresses a difficulty encountered by many artists living in (South) Africa. Despite a few impressive museums, all of which have very limited financial scope, presentations of internationally relevant artistic approaches or of art-historically outstanding works are a rarity. It is possible to respond to originals and to address contemporary discourse only with the aid of art magazines, exhibition catalogues or the Internet. Blom's rigorous concept is based on recording his ephemeral and constantly changing installation only in the smallest possible photographic series. In this way he places viewers (and collectors) in a similarly disadvantageous situation to that experienced by fine artists on the African continent. The chapter at 5x6x9 summed up under the title *Mapping the Void* consists of photographs of different working stages and the final view of the installation.

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