

12 650 000

Artistbook 100 + 10 A/P

‘Susanne Kriemann’s photography and text oriented work is driven by a critical curiosity about monumental structures as embodiments of ideology. In her own words “the points of reference include the tension between historical objects and collective identities, and the re-contextualization of these objects within the space of the museum.” An intensive and intuitive research process lies behind each piece; she collects all the existing information about the objects of her curiosity before determining the format of the artistic outcome. The power of Kriemann’s work comes from this process and reaches its crescendo in the extraordinary transformation of that collected information. This time, the centre of her attraction is Berlin’s 12.650.000 kilograms load test body “Großbelastungskörper”, which was erected in the Tempelhof district of Berlin as a commission by Albert Speer in 1941 and registered as a historical landmark since 1995.

The publication 12 650 000 mimics the format of Artforum exactly and is accompanied by the artist’s photographic installation of the same name. The images document a moment of renovation of the concrete hulk in 2008 and puts these in a comparable row with archival images of the load test body’s construction time in 1941/1942 and its active testing phase in 1960ties and 1970ties for the reconstruction of Berlin.

Printed in 100 + 10 AP copies, the book 12 650 000 opens with construction pictures of the object, repeats the same quoted image of the “Großbelastungskörper” for 390 pages and ends with the artist’s own photograph of the object in scaffolding again during official state renovation executed in 2007 and 2008. This complex and 1,6kg “artistic edition” not only questions the value of the monument as an artistic object but also highlights Artforum as a market value determination tool displaying hundreds of pages of artistic commercials.’

(source: catalogue Gamec Bergamo, ‘Data Recovery’, curated by Ovul Durmusoglu 29.05.08 -27.07.08)