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Jessica Backhaus

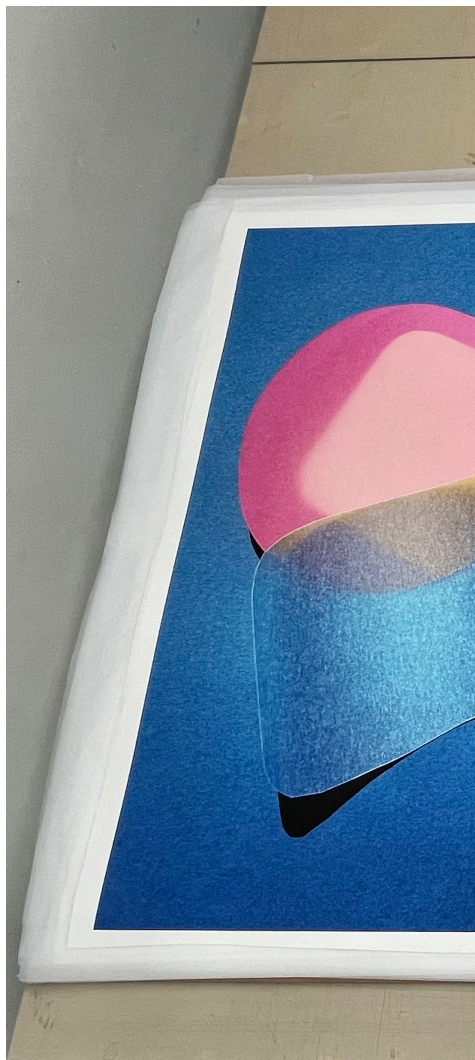
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Front cover: Jessica Backhaus  
Cut Out #26, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print, 112,5 x 75 cm  
© Jessica Backhaus, Courtesy Robert Morat Galerie



This page: Studio view  
© Jessica Backhaus, Courtesy Robert Morat Galerie

# INTRODUCTION

For the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of the Photo London magazine, we are pleased to feature the latest project by German photographer Jessica Backhaus.

Considered to be one of the most distinguished voices in contemporary photography in Germany today, Backhaus's most recent project takes a path into abstraction while using analogue photographic methods.

*"I wanted to work in a space where I could create and experiment [...] In our society we get overwhelmed by films, visual images, music and everything else all the time. But sometimes you can hear the best music and see the best things when you close your eyes and let the imagination play."*

– Jessica Backhaus

This issue features works from the artist's "Cut Outs" series, which will be presented by Robert Morat Galerie Berlin at this year's Photo London.





Studio view  
© Jessica Backhaus, Courtesy Robert Morat Galerie

# Cut Outs

*“Up to now, painting was like photography in colour. But colour was always employed as a means to describe something. Abstract art is the premise of a liberation from the old pictorial formula. A genuinely new form of painting will emerge the day we understand that colour has a life of its own, that the endless combinations of colours bear poetry and a poetic language way more expressive than the older forms. This mysterious language has to do with vibrations, the very life of a colour. In this domain, new possibilities are infinite.”*

Sona Delaunay, 1949

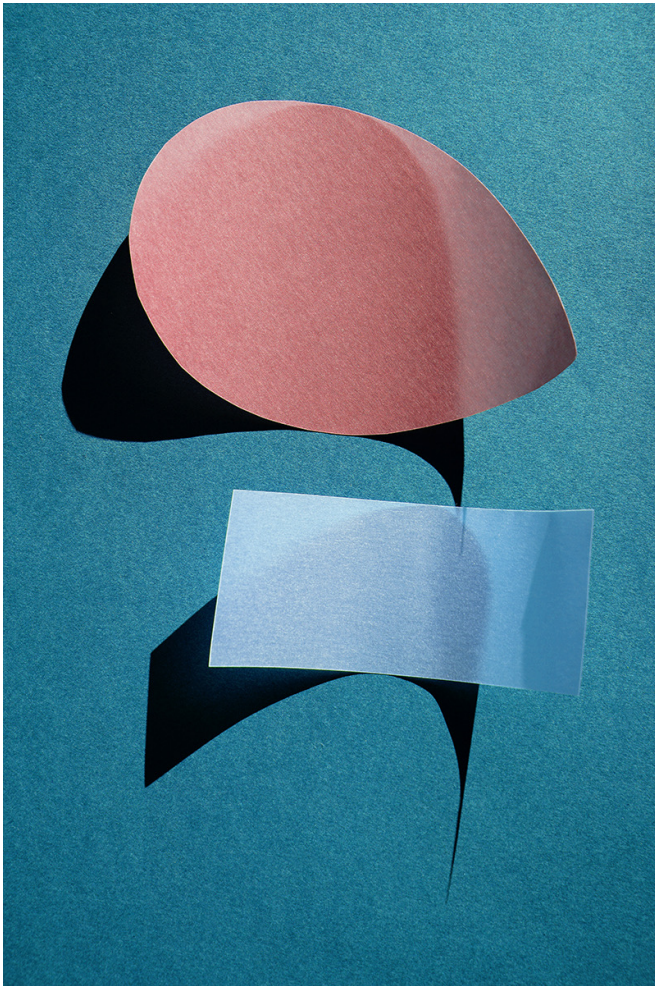
The pictures in Jessica Backhaus' new series are created by using the simplest means and they reduce photography to its basic elements: light and shadow, shape and color.

In her last publication *A Trilogy* (Kehrer, 2017), Jessica Backhaus has taken a path into abstraction, which is consistently continued here – with analog, photographic methods.

Cut out transparent paper reacts to the heat of intense sunlight, deforms, rises, and casts shadows. The photographer who arranged and staged these compositions becomes an astonished observer of events on which she has only limited influence, the documentarist of a visual experimental arrangement, a poetic choreography of intense colors in the sunlight.

*"Colors are emotions."*

Jessica Backhaus



Jessica Backhaus, Cut Out #13, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print, 112,5 x 75 cm  
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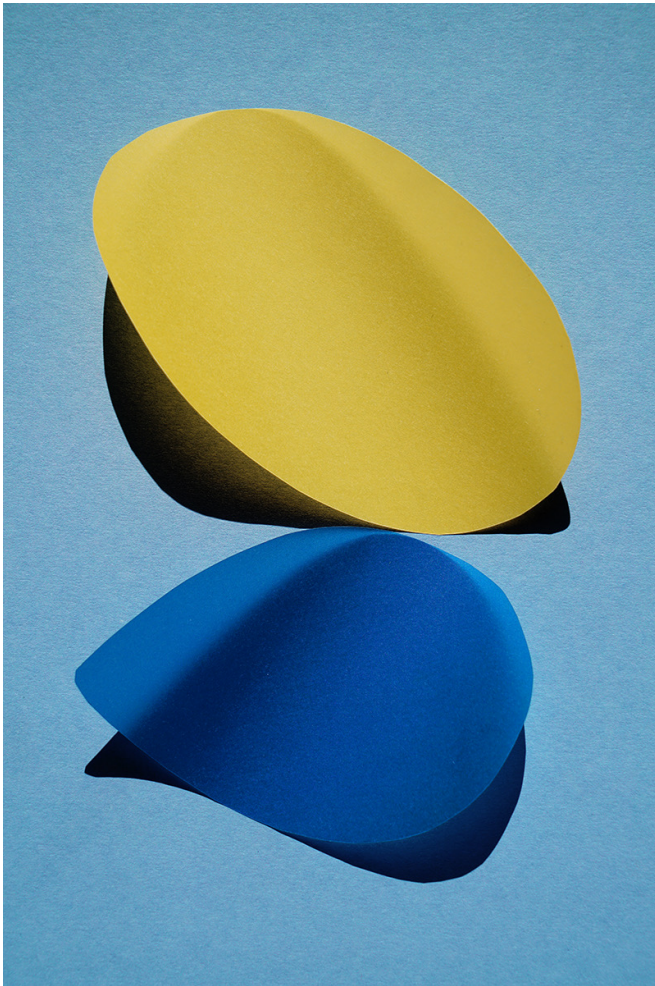


Jessica Backhaus, Cut Out #18, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print, 112,5 x 75 cm  
© Jessica Backhaus, Courtesy Robert Morat Galerie





Studio view  
© Jessica Backhaus, Courtesy Robert Morat Galerie



Jessica Backhaus, Cut Out #34, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print, 112,5 x 75 cm  
© Jessica Backhaus, Courtesy Robert Morat Galerie

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Jessica Backhaus, Cut Out #44, 2020  
Archival Pigment Print, 112,5 x 75 cm  
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Cut Outs book  
© Jessica Backhaus, Courtesy Robert Morat Galerie



Cut Outs book  
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Studio view  
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Studio view  
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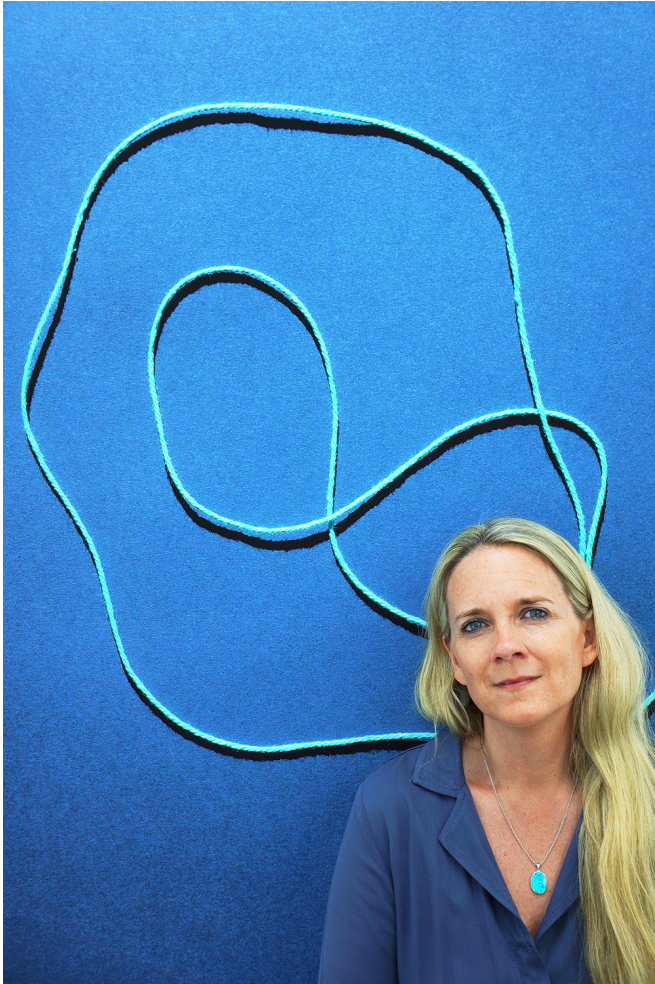
# Biography

Jessica Backhaus was born in Cuxhaven, Germany in 1970 and grew up in an artistic family. At the age of sixteen, she moved to Paris, where she later studied photography and visual communications. Here she met Gisèle Freund in 1992, who became her mentor. In 1995 her passion for photography drew her to New York, where she assisted photographers, pursued her projects and lived until 2009.

Jessica Backhaus is regarded as one of the most distinguished voices in contemporary photography in Germany today. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including the National Portrait Gallery, London, the Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, MARTa Herford and the Kunsthalle Erfurt. To date, she has ten publications to her name: *Jesus and the Cherries* (Kehrer, 2005), *What Still Remains* (Kehrer, 2008), *One Day in November* (Kehrer, 2008), *I Wanted to See the World* (Kehrer, 2010), *ONE DAY – 10 photographers* (Kehrer, 2010), *Once, still and forever* (Kehrer, 2012), *Six degrees of freedom* (Kehrer, 2015), *A TRILOGY* (Kehrer, 2017), *Far away but close* (Another Place Press, 2019) and *Cut Outs* (Kehrer, 2021). Her work is also featured in “Women Photographers by Boris Friedewald” (Prestel Verlag, 2014/2018) and in 2012 FOAM Fotografiemuseum, Amsterdam produced a short documentary “Wonder Jessica Backhaus”, a film by Willem Aerts.

Jessica Backhaus’ photographs are in many prominent art collections including Taunus Sparkasse, Germany; Art Collection Deutsche Börse, Germany; ING Art Collection, Belgium; Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA and the Margulies Collection, Miami, USA.

Since 2009 Jessica Backhaus lives and works again in Berlin.



# ROBERT MORAT GALERIE

Established in 2004, Robert Morat Galerie is a contemporary art gallery, primarily focusing on emerging positions in contemporary photography and photo-based art.

Founded in Hamburg, the gallery has since moved to Berlin and is now located on Linienstrasse in the Mitte art district.

The gallery is a member of the Association of International Photography Art Dealers (AIPAD) and a regular exhibitor at international art fairs such as PARIS PHOTO, Photo London, UNSEEN Amsterdam or The Photography Show in New York.

ROBERT MORAT GALERIE  
Linienstraße 107, 10115 Berlin  
T + 49 30 25 209 358  
M + 49 172 411 5069  
info@robertmorat.de  
www.robertmorat.de

# Acknowledgments

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