

BLEK

Program

BLEK #14 - #1

State: 2022

BLEK

BLEK connects photography, typography, print, and architecture. Publications are curated and conceived as sculpture. Processes are exhibited. The artist group BLEK was founded in 2010 by Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel and Alwin Lay. While the aim in the beginning was to use exhibitions and publications to create a platform in order to link diverse artistic positions and to solidify a discourse, in recent years the emerging focus may be described in terms of publishing as artistic practice. BLEK investigates possibilities to conceive of publications as exhibition space, weaving together the meaning and function of photography, while questioning classical structures of representation and distribution. Borders between book, exhibition and space are fluid. BLEK cooperates with diverse artists and institutions to discuss these ideas publically and across media.

Selected presentations:

- 2020 Kunst Buch Donnerstag, mumok, Vienna
- 2019 Miss Read, Berlin Art Book Festival, HKW, Berlin
- 2018 The Cologne Art Book Fair, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne
- 2017 Künstlerbücher für Alles, Weserburg, Bremen
- 2017 Art Cologne, 51. Internationaler Kunstmarkt, Cologne
- 2017 It's a Book, Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst, Leipzig
- 2016 Miss Read Art Book Fair, Akademie der Künste, Berlin
- 2016 Offprint, Tate Modern, London
- 2016 #Riafeniz, Halle für Kunst Medien, Graz
- 2016 Words Are My Reality, BURG Galerie, Halle (Saale)
- 2015 Schülke Fine Books, Cologne
- 2014 Clap, Museum Folkwang, Essen
- 2014 SSZ Sued, Cologne

Public collections:

mumok library – Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Austria
Institute of Contemporary Arts London, U.K.
Kunst- und Museumsbibliothek der Stadt Köln, Germany
Artphilein Library Lugano, Switzerland
Zines of the Zone, Nantes, France
Archiv der Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig, Germany
Archiv der Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle, Germany

Book shops:

Buchhandlung Walther König, Ehrenstrasse 4, 50672 Cologne, Germany
Schuelke Fine Books, Palmstrasse 14, 50672 Cologne, Germany
Haus der Photographie, Deichtorstrasse 1-2, 20095 Hamburg, Germany
MOTTO Berlin, Skalitzer Str. 68, Hinterhof, 10997 Berlin, Germany
mzin bookstore, Kolonnadenstr. 20, 04109 Leipzig, Germany
WIELS Bookshop, Av. Van Volxemlaan 354, 1190 Bruxelles, Belgium
Peinture Fraiche, Rue du Tabellion 10, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

BLEK #14

Authors: Sascha Herrmann, Alwin Lay

Typography: Paul Bowler

Format: 13 × 8 cm

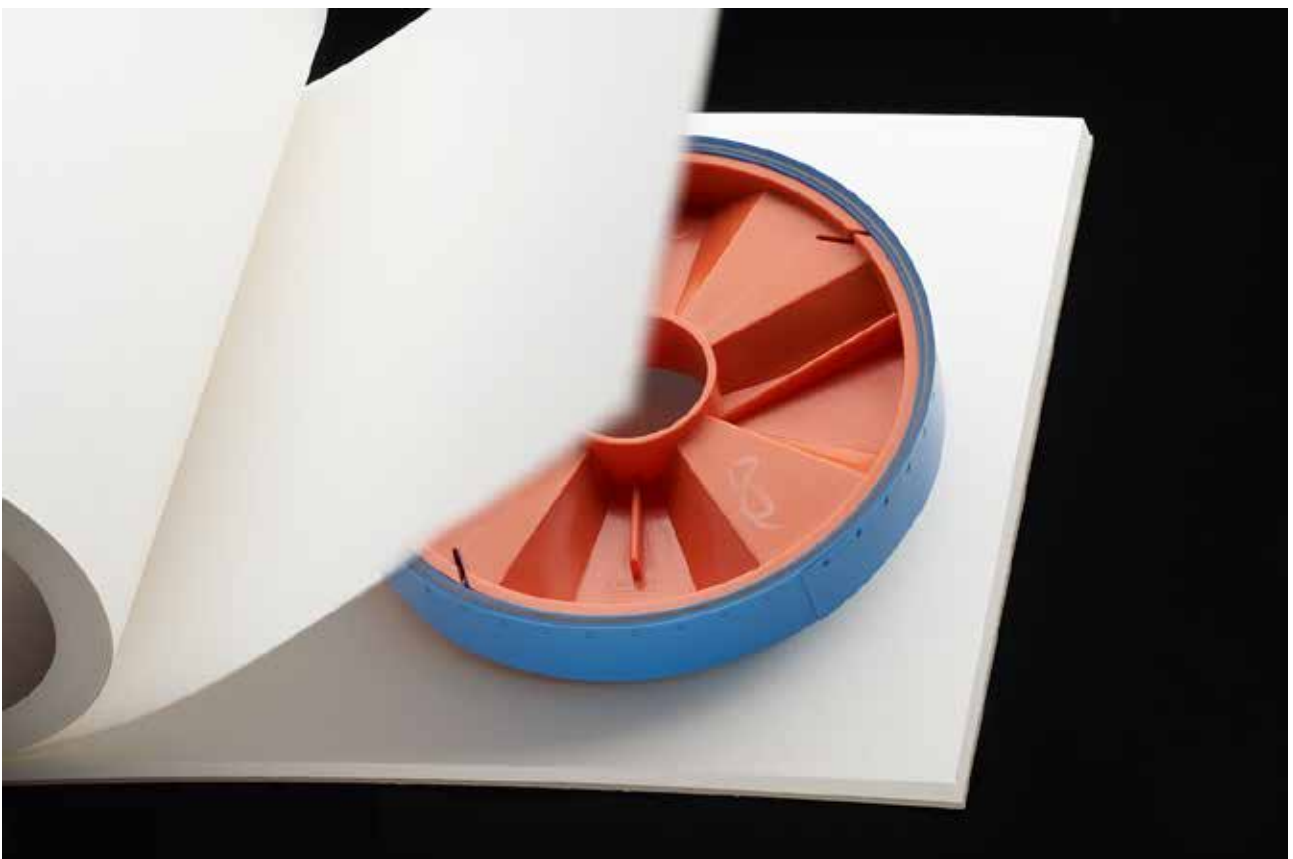
Production: MB Druck + Werbung

Print Run: 100

Price: 18 €

Printed in Germany 2019

BLEK#14 is a flip book that takes up the idea of the kineograph. Regarded as a precursor to the cinema, the kineograph was an invention by the Frenchman Pierre Hubert Desvignes from around 1860. In flipping through the 40 pages of BLEK#14, a roll of 16 mm film appears to be floating in a book. Illusion of movement of the single pages arises from the flipping pages within the book.



BLEK #13

Photography: Sascha Herrmann, Alwin Lay

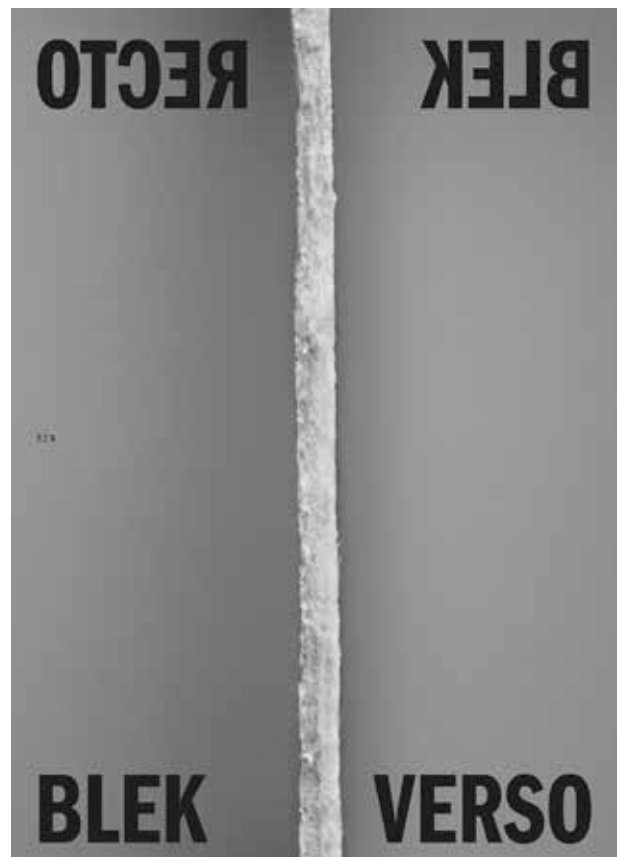
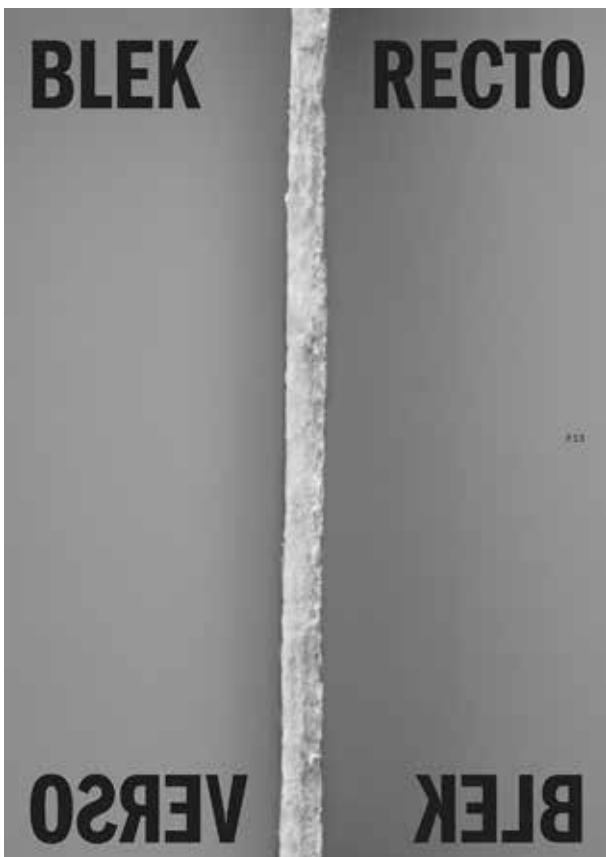
Format: N.N.

Production: Brill Publishing

Print Run: N.N.

Price: N.N.

The BLEK contribution for the publication that is currently being planned with the working title “Das Buch als erweiterter Kunst- und Kommunikationsraum” (The Book as an Extended Art and Communication Space) appears on a page in the scientific volume, specifically on a front page and corresponding back page. The title of the BLEK contribution “Recto/Verso” takes up the technical term from bookbinding, while referring to the page’s form. It consists of a photographic image and typography printed full bleed. The photograph depicts a cross-section of the edge of a page in a book. One sees the material quality of the paper, the fibres and the cut. The image freezes the moment in which the page is being flipped, in which one can see neither the front nor the back of the page.



BLEK #N.N.

Authors: Patrick Knuchel, Anton Peiterson, Gernot Seeliger

Formats: 14,8 × 21 cm, 1920 × 1080 px, Full HD, Sound

Production: BLEK & Saxum-litho & We make it

Auflage: 100 + 20 AP

Preis: 5 €

Printed in Germany and Denmark 2018

The publication links the printing workshop Saxum-litho in Ebeltoft, Denmark, with the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. For this purpose, a device called the Caramate (a slide-projector from the 70s for the automatic presentation of lectures) was employed. The Caramate was used as prepress material in the lithography workshop in Denmark and also presented at MISS READ 2018 as a form of the binding of photographs. During the book fair, a video was shown in which the printing process in the workshop in Denmark was broadcast live. In this way, the production of a book became part of this book's exhibition.



This publication connects Saxum-litho (Ebeltoft, Denmark) with the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin, Germany). In focus is a process of mediation between the Caramate (a slide presentation display device from the 70ties) connected arts printmaking, photography and performance (Knuchel, Seeliger, Peitersen). The process and the result can be taken in through the QR-code. This airship meant to be the first connection for a publication made of data and dust.

"We're trying to land this airship somewhere between two turbo boring things like DB in Gummersbach and watching dogs fucking in the park and make something better from that. The Caramate is still alive yet connected in dust."

This publication appears with friendly support of we-make.it on the occasion of Miss Read The Berlin Art Book Festival 2018.



BLEK #12

Photography: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay
Formats: 21 × 29,7 cm + 59,4 × 84,1 cm, 6 pages + 1 poster
Production: BLEK & MOFF
Print Run: 8000 + 100
Price: 20 €

Printed in Germany 2017

At the invitation of the Cologne art magazine MOFF, BLEK participated with a 6-page advertisement about itself. The contribution illustrates in an ironic manner diverse bookbinding techniques. A poster was published on the occasion of Art Cologne.



BLEK#12 BEST QUALITY



BLEK#12 MOFF

PHOTOGRAPHY: SASCHA HERRMANN, PATRICK
KNUCHEL, ALWIN LAY · TYPOGRAPHY: PAUL BOWLER
PRINT: OFFSET 4/0 · PRODUCTION: MOFF
FORMAT: 59.4 × 84.1 CM · PAPER: GLOSSY 170 G
PRINT RUN: 100 · © BLEK 2017 · PRINTED IN GERMANY

BLEK #11

Authors: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel

Format: 13,8 × 19,3 cm, 100 pages

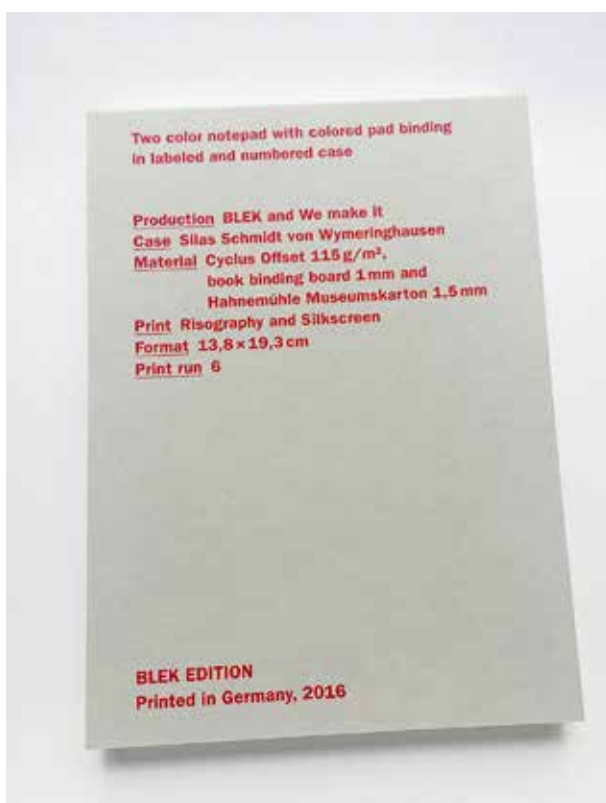
Production: BLEK & We make it

Print Run: 3 + 3 AP

Price: 160 €

Printed in Germany 2016

An elaborately handmade case made from museum cardboard protects a notepad with coloured adhesive backs. Each of the detachable pages of the notepad bears the page number 1, making it impossible to sort them once separated. The idea refers to the conditions of specific print productions, but also to the equivalence of sketch and idea.



BLEK #10

Authors: ART N MORE, Paul Bowler und Georg Weißbach

Format: 70 × 70 cm, 2 pages

Production: BLEK & ART N MORE

Print Run: 90 + 10 AP

Price: 25 €

Printed in Germany 2016

A cooperation of BLEK and the Leipzig art duo ART N MORE, it comprises a 3-colour silkscreen poster with 2 pages about friendship and alcohol, Karl Marx and Oscar Wilde. This publication appeared on the occasion of Offprint London in the Tate Modern.



ART N MORE

Paul Bowler and
Georg Weißbach

Revised edition from 2016. First silkscreen printed: 90 + 10 AP.
Print run: 200. The silkscreen printed edition is on the occasion of
Offprint 2016 in London. Printed in Germany, November 2016. BLEK

BLEK#10

**WORK IS
THE CURSE
OF THE
DRINKING
CLASSES**

ART N MORE

Paul Bowler and
Georg Weißbach

Revised edition from 2016. First silkscreen printed: 90 + 10 AP.
Print run: 200. The silkscreen printed edition is on the occasion of
Offprint 2016 in London. Printed in Germany, November 2016. BLEK

BLEK#10

BLEK #9

Photography: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel

Text: Bernd Lüttgerding

Format: 22,6 × 32 cm

Production: BLEK & Facilities of Burg Giebichenstein Halle

Print Run: 250

Price: 15 €

Printed in Germany 2016

This publication on poetry, exposure and perspective arose in the context of an exhibition at the Burg Gallery in Halle. Poetry fragments were printed with ink and light-sensitive cyanotype chemicals on offset plates. Light-sensitive plates were photographed in the gallery prior to the exhibition. Depending on the angle from which they are viewed, different connections are visible. The publication traces this path and records the moment of exposure. Later, the imprint appeared on a fabric banner in the exterior space and the publication became the actual exhibition piece.



BLEK #8

Photography: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay

Format: 64 × 86 cm, 3 Blätter

Production: BLEK & Andruckstudio Leipzig

Print Run: 10 + 10 AP

Price: 340 €

Printed in Germany 2015

The occasion of a presentation at Schülke Fine Arts in Cologne gave rise to a framed publication for the wall in the form of a loose-leaf collection. The 3 photographic series, each with 3 motifs, are produced on 3 paginated pages in offset lithography and silkscreen.





BLEK#8

Autoren: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay | Gestaltung:
Paul Bowler | Schrift: ITC Franklin Gothic | Papier: Geese West-
minster Premium Altweiß 250 g | Druck: Offset- und Siebdruck |
Bindung: Loseblattwerk | Umschlag: Rahmen | Format: 60 × 86 cm |
Auflage: 10 + 10 AP | Copyright BLEK, 2015 | Printed in Germany

BLEK #7

Photography: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay

Text: Sarah Alberti

Format: 32 × 40 cm, 12 pages in a folder

Production: BLEK & Andruckstudio Leipzig

Print Run: 25 + 15 AP

Price: 400 €

Printed in Germany 2015

In this folder, one finds 3 photographic sequences, each with 4 motifs. Themes include the offset procedure, the wet collodion process and the meteorological imaging research from the Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research in Leipzig. All 3 works exhibit the spectral splitting and merging of light and their translation in the process of photographic reproduction, offset printing. The folder was produced in accordance with museum standards.



BLEK #6

Photography: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay

Production: BLEK & We make it

Format: 29,7 × 42 cm, 2 pages

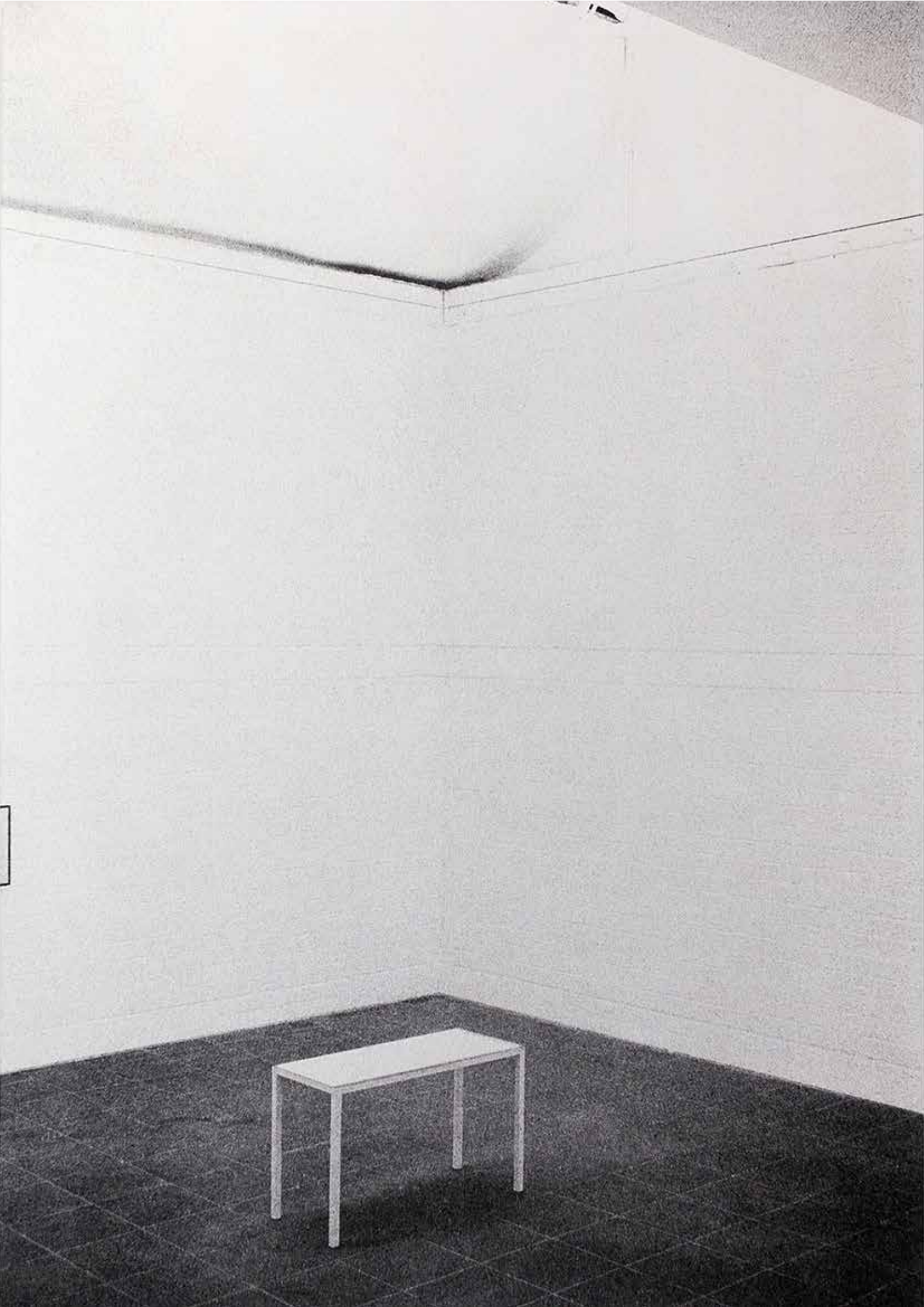
Print Run: 100 + 30 AP

Price: 15 €

Printed in Germany 2015 – 2019

The concept of this publication is its reference to a place and time, the structure remaining the same: Page 1 contains the BLEK logo, its current understanding of itself, the occasion of its publication and the photo credits with the author, referring to page 2. Printed full bleed, this page shows the image of a room with an empty table. More or less obvious clues suggest an exhibition space. This publication appears on the occasion of BLEK presentations in diverse languages and is conceived as an open series.





BLEK #5

Authors: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay

Production: BLEK & Jan Blessing

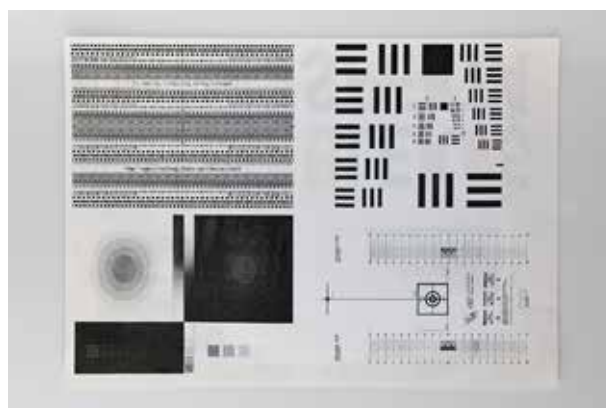
Format: 21 × 14,8 cm, 5 pages

Print Run: 100 + 10 AP

Price: 15 €

Printed in Germany 2012

This publication accompanied an exhibition and contains diverse motifs of testing and calibration from the field of reproduction, particularly image reproduction. They are a reference to works by Patrick Knuchel, Frank Bernhard Übler and Matthias Wollgast exhibited in Hinterconti in Hamburg.



BLEK #4

Photography: Maria L. Felixmüller, Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay, Martin Meiser, Florian Rexroth, Wolf Konrad Roscher, Katharina Schmitt

Production: BLEK

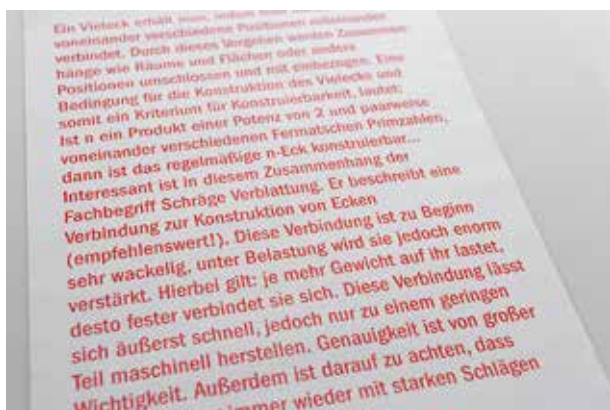
Format: 13 × 18 cm, 10 pages

Print Run: 100 + 10 AP

Price: 15 €

Printed in Germany 2012

For the exhibition in the Heit Gallery in Berlin, BLEK published a postcard edition by each of the participating artists. The postcards are wrapped in a poster. A floor plan of the gallery along with a technical text that connects the exhibited works thematically with one another are printed on the poster.



BLEK #3

Authors: Alexander Basile & BARTO, Ben van den Berghe, Marius Glauer, Philipp Goldbach, Antje Günther, Julius Heinemann, Sascha Herrmann, Jan Hoeft, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay, Florian Rexroth, Wolf Konrad Roscher, Katharina Schmitt, Gernot Seeliger, Katharina Urbaniak, Moritz Wegwerth, Johannes Wohnseifer

Text: Friedrich Tietjen

Production: BLEK & the artists

Format: 32,5 × 44 cm, 52 pages

Print Run: 80 + 20 AP

Price: 150 €

Printed in Germany 2013

BLEK #3 takes up the question concerning the point of intersection of photography and drawing. The book contains diverse papers, print techniques and manual productions. By means of the different reproduction methods of the single works, they acquire the character of an edition. On the cover is a text by Friedrich Tietjen, who reflects upon photography, i.e. drawing with light. His text introduces the theme. If drawing is a form of reflection on paper, then photography would be a form of reflection with light. In this sense, the book is an imaginary exhibition.



BLEK #2

Photography: Sascha Herrmann, Jan Hoelt, Patrick Knuchel, Sebastian Komnick, Alwin Lay, Malte Ludwigs, Peter Miller, Wolf Konrad Roscher

Text: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay

Production: BLEK

Format: 10 × 15 cm, 4 pages

Print Run: 100 + 10 AP

Price: 25 €

Printed in Germany 2011

A publication accompanying an exhibition with a manifesto from BLEK. Each of the 8 participating artists is represented with an A6 motif. The motifs are located next to each other on a perforated leporello, i.e. potential postcards. The leporello is wrapped in another sheet of paper.



BLEK #1

Authors: Sascha Herrmann, Patrick Knuchel, Alwin Lay

Production: BLEK

Format: 10 × 15 cm, 6 pages

Print Run: 100 + 10 AP

Price: sold out

Printed in Germany 2010

This publication appeared on the occasion of the first BLEK exhibition. The special cross-recesed folding enables the use of running text and a page order, functioning simultaneously as an invitation card and a poster. It contains texts that accompany and supplement the exhibition. The poster became the basis for BLEK's distinct typography.

