

Annelies Štrba

Location: Hotel Terrace, old staircase

Hardly anything is as fleeting as the experience of closeness and happiness. It often slips away from us the moment we try to capture it. In her artistic work, Annelies Štrba explores the possibilities of capturing subjective memories of her own family, cities or journeys with her camera. The results are atmospherically dense photographs and videos, that often shimmer like dreams between appearance and dissolution, imagination and reality.

Štrba creates such a hypnotic space with her video work *KOI* in the stairwell of Hotel Terrace, which can be seen on a screen installed flat on the floor. Dozens of koi carp swim around like in a pond, observed by a still camera in vertical view. In Japan, koi are considered sacred fish that symbolize strength and good fortune. Close to the surface, their shimmering white, red and orange bodies move in endless laps through the dark pool of Štrba's video. The gentle calm of their movements stands in delicate contrast to the unpredictability of their activity. No two trajectories are the same here, everything is always different—as is the soundtrack composed by Pe Lang, consisting of four notes that constantly rearrange themselves, intertwine and come to rest again in an endlessly repeating rhythm. If you like, you can see in it an image of the quiet pulsation of memory between reality and fiction. *KOI* was created in 1998 after Štrba's second stay in Japan. (*roe*)

Annelies Štrba, born 1947 in Zug, Switzerland, lives and works in Zurich and Melide, Switzerland. Her work has been exhibited many times, most recently in Switzerland at MASI, Lugano (2023/24), Fotostiftung Schweiz, Winterthur (2023), Musée des beaux-arts, La Chaux-de-Fonds (2021) and Villa Garbald, Castasegna (2021). Štrba was awarded the Willy Reber Art Prize in 2020. Further information: strba.ch