

Peter Loewy

Location: Tal Museum, 2nd floor, old part,

Many people think that art comes about through flashes of inspiration. Artists are kissed by the muse and in an instant a new work of art is born. For many people, art and work, perhaps even painstaking work, do not go together. Of course, now and again works have been created through flashes of inspiration, but usually they are the result of many considerations. They are the result of deep convictions and visions, of trials and failures, of a gradual consolidation of complex processes.

The photographer Peter Loewy is interested in aura. On his long journeys, he repeatedly photographs everyday situations that tell something about the atmosphere of a city, a country or a culture. In 1997, he began a series of works that came to a (perhaps temporary) conclusion last year: he photographed the studios of well-known artists around the world—but in their absence. Alex Katz, for example, granted him access to his studio, as did Jeff Koons, Etel Adnan and David Hockney, Miriam Cahn, Gerhard Richter and Pipilotti Rist. In this group of works, Loewy wanted to capture the individual artistic spirit of these very special workplaces—and thus indirectly of his fellow artists themselves. He calls his series a collection of aura.

Peter Loewy takes us to places we normally never get to see unless we are curators, gallery owners or collectors. In his photographs we discover unfinished works or works packed in bubble wrap. We see old armchairs, sketches, plans, brushes, paint pots, materials of all kinds. We can recognize models from previous or upcoming exhibitions, or imagine that there are notes hanging on the walls. It is as if we could actually immerse ourselves in the atmosphere of these studios.

Loewy's photographs invite us to find new fields of experimentation and spaces for ideas for ourselves. And this succeeds not least because Loewy never shows the artists at work in their studios. This gives his photographs a model-like dimension. They seem to ask: What does your creative place of longing look like? (*ds*)

Peter Loewy was born in Petach-Tikva, Israel in 1951 and has lived in Frankfurt am Main, Germany since 1956. He has been a freelance photographer since 1996. His photographs have been exhibited extensively in Germany, for example at the Jewish Museum Hohenems (2019), the Hamburger Kunsthalle (2011) and the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2010), and can be found in renowned collections.