

# Susanne Kriemann: Knochen, Pech, Natternkopf (Being a Photograph)

July 11 to October 5, 2025

GfZK Neubau

Opening: Thursday, July 10, 7 pm

Press preview: Thursday, July 10, 2 pm

What is a photograph, and what stories are told by the elements within a photographic image? These are the questions explored by Susanne Kriemann. Her field research leads her to former uranium mining areas in the Ore Mountains and the Massif Central in the south of France, or to a steel mill in Germany's Siegerland region. Visitors to the exhibition are invited to follow the artist's investigations and to consider plants, minerals and metals as active agents in the production of images. It begins with footage of Monte Schlacko in Siegen, a slag heap formed as a byproduct of steel production. Its soil, which contains heavy metals, has become a habitat for rare plant species. These plants not only witness industrial production – at the same time they embody it, feeding on its waste products. The photographs and textile artworks created in Saxony, Thuringia and the Limousin region explore the afterlife of radioactive radiation. Using X-ray images and autoradiographs, Susanne Kriemann reveals the traces of uranium in plants growing in former mining areas. She traces connections between materials and forms of energy and existence that reach beyond human life. Pitchblende, the ore from which uranium is extracted, plays a special role: its radiation allows photographic images to be produced without the need for light. The darkness in the middle room of the exhibition space is reminiscent of the subterranean world of mining. Here, mining tools appear as fleeting projections.

The exhibition, developed in cooperation with Camera Austria, was shown in Graz from 8 March to 18 May 2025 under the title *Susanne Kriemann: Ray, Rock, Rowan (Being a Photograph)*, curated by Margit Neuhold. It was then expanded for the presentation in Leipzig.

A reader accompanying the exhibition was published by Edition Camera Austria. Designed by James Langdon, it brings together texts by Siobhan Angus, Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent, Zippora Elders, Daisy Hildyard, Bhanu Kapil, Kyveli Mavrokordopoulou, Lisa Rosendahl and an introduction by Christina Töpfer and Margit Neuhold.

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Susanne Kriemann is an artist and professor for artistic photography at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design (DE). Since 2010, she has co-organised ABA – AiR Berlin Alexanderplatz (DE) with Aleksander Komarov. Her work has been exhibited at international institutions such as the Wattis Institute, San Francisco (US); Kunsthalle Wien (AT); Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (NL); C/O Berlin and MK&G Hamburg (DE). She has also participated in major biennials, including the Diriyah Biennial Riyadh (SA), 11. Shanghai Biennial (CN); the 10th and 11th Gothenburg International Biennials (SE); the 2nd Karachi Biennale (PK); the 5th Moscow Biennale (RU) and the 5th Berlin Biennale (DE). Since 1998, Susanne Kriemann has published 18 artist's books.

You can find a selection of images online at:

[www.gfzk.de/press](http://www.gfzk.de/press)

We are happy to arrange interviews and tours of the exhibition with the curators at:

[presse@gfzk.de](mailto:presse@gfzk.de)