

# as it is

THADDÄUS SALCHER

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curated by Manfred Draxl & Igor Comploi  
powered by Lichtstudio Eisenkeil  
text: Victoria Dejaco

For the first time artist Thaddäus Salcher, known for his work in a variety of different media, includes photographs in his solo exhibition at Galleria Doris Ghetta. Presented strictly in black and white, they fit into the aesthetic current running through all Salcher's work with very natural continuity.

His photographs – mostly abstracts – reveal a lot of affinities with painting, because of their sensitivity and vicinity to the human figure, to nature and to traces of nature, and because they share the same feel as his former work produced using other means of expression. And so we should not be surprised to see that the exhibition juxtaposes work in methyl acrylate and metal with photography, the only possible way of allowing both to be fully revealed to the observer. The aluminium works "Free", "Horizon" and "Teardrop" are particularly suitable in combination with the delicate undulating motion of the photographs. The figure shrouded in the mists of a silvery white landscape relates to the figures in relief that Salcher sculpts onto sheets of copper. In the same way, the reverberation of the snow or the meadow is like the waves of the sea, becoming metal and material, recalling the soft lines of both the images entitled "Endless". In Thaddäus Salcher's work abstraction appears naturally (veiling with mist) or formally (methyl acrylate on an aluminium base). In "Lisa", "Dialogue" and "Atakama", materials change each other. Aluminium creates a background for methyl acrylate, vanifying the transparency, already affected by the artist's work with the tools of sculpture. Methyl acrylate changes the way we perceive aluminium, linking it with a representation that goes beyond its material nature. Worked methyl acrylate surfaces look like misty landscapes.

But it is also the way in which they are presented that makes these beautiful photographs look like paintings, and we don't quite trust Salcher's words when he says that photography is a "hobby" for him. The title "as it is" comes from a piece by the great artist and composer John Cage, and could be applied to many of Salcher's works literally, as they often capture or express the immediacy of the material, of the moment and of representation of nature.

The overall concept behind the exhibition was developed in collaboration with the light designer Manfred Draxl and architect Igor Comploi, with the kind support of Lichtstudio Eisenkeil di Merano, Bolzano, Brunico e Vomp (A).

**Thaddäus Salcher**, 1964 born in Bressanone (I)  
1979-86 apprentice in the studio of his father Richard Salcher  
1987-93 studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich with Prof. Hans Ladner  
1993 „Master Student“  
lives and works in Bulla, Ortisei (I)