

# GALERIE ANDREAS BINDER

Press Release

STEFAN HUNSTEIN  
Der Rest ist Poesie (The Rest is Poetry)

Opening: Thursday, November 13 2025  
Duration of the Exhibition: November 14, 2025 – January 24, 2025

With the exhibition *Der Rest ist Poesie (The Rest is Poetry)*, Galerie Andreas Binder presents new works by Stefan Hunstein, in which the artist explores anew the boundaries between photography, text, and artificial intelligence. Three decades after his "First Photographic Manifesto" of 1991, in which he radically questioned the documentary claim to truth in photography, Hunstein now extends his earlier vision into the present of a digital, algorithmically generated image world. What once counted as a technical depiction of reality has now become pure construction. Creating a photograph no longer requires a camera – only a program and a text. "What remains is surface - and, in the best case, poetry," Hunstein formulates as the guiding idea of his new works.

At the center of the exhibition is the series *Ein Übertritt (A Crossing)*, inspired by a text by Nobel Prize winning author Elfriede Jelinek, in which she reflects on the state of our present time, eighty years after the end of World War II. Hunstein has combined passages from this text with his own thoughts and used these textual fragments as input for an AI. The resulting images appear like photographs but are purely linguistic constructs – born from imagination, memory, and reflection. They do not reveal reality but its poetic transformation. In this detachment from actuality, a new space of seeing opens up: a crossing from documentary photography into a sphere of pure imagination.

At the same time, Hunstein presents works from the cycle *Fairy Tales*, in which he explores the interplay between image and language. Each work shows an imaginary, fairy-tale-like scene accompanied by a poetic sentence. As soon as the viewer reads the text, the perception of the image changes - seeing becomes a literary experience. Hunstein makes visible how strongly language guides our visual perception, how meaning shifts in the interaction between word and image, and how new realities emerge. What appears to be a poetic game is, at the same time, a reflection on our mediated present – on manipulation, interpretation, and the fragile relationship between seeing and believing.

Another focus of the exhibition is Hunstein's three-part photo work '69 from 2009. The triptych deals with three defining events of the year 1969: the moon landing as a symbol of human ambition, the Manson murders as an expression of violence and media sensationalism, and the Altamont incident, which marked the end of the carefree hippie era. Hunstein combines these moments with documentary visual quotations and media symbolism to make visible the tensions between euphoria and disillusionment, utopia and violence. The work invites a critical reflection on the mechanisms of collective myth-making. It shows how historical ruptures continue to resonate within collective imagination – a theme that, in Hunstein's current work, acquires a new, poetic-digital dimension.

In his photo series *Der Traum vom Eis (The Dream of Ice)*, Hunstein turns to the polar regions as mythical places of the extreme and the transitory. Based on his own journeys to the North Pole, which he undertook in 2014, he transforms his photographic images into artistically intensified visual spaces. Through interventions in texture, scale, and color, poetic visions of a disappearing world emerge. The ice becomes a symbol of memory, beauty, and loss – of a nature that continues to exist only in imagination. Thus, what once was reality now appears like a memory of the future - a vision of a world in which ice exists only as a dream.

With *The Rest Is Poetry*, Stefan Hunstein continues his decades-long exploration of photographic reality into a new present shaped by artificial intelligence. What once was light is now language; what once was documentation is now imagination. Hunstein's work opens a space between reality and fiction, between technology and poetry – a new era of poetic vision.