

In The Night (*Photo Series*); Susanne Schuricht, 2006

The series of works titled "In The Night" by artist Susanne Schuricht depicts seemingly alien, monumental construction sites photographed at night in Dubai. Some of the photographs consist only of countless points of light on a uniform, deep black background. The arrangement of the points of light often indirectly sketches the typology of a skyscraper, yet without clearly revealing its form. The images take on the form of a pictorial riddle, in which the incomplete fragments of information stimulate the viewer's imagination. The apparently inexact positioning of the construction site floodlights accentuates the rudimentary technology employed in assembling the shell of the structure, providing a radical contrast with the fine cladding of the finished building. By showing the direct proximity of small and large scale dimensions, the photographs in this series underline the fragile social relations between supposedly state-of-the art prestige construction projects and the local, largely simple working methods revealed by the crude site equipment in the foreground of certain motifs.

This simultaneous composition of both large and small scale elements within a highly complex environment is reduced to the two dimensional plane of an image: it creates an effect of comprehensibility but also of surreality. Going far beyond social criticism, the purely visual quality of the photographs in series "In The Night" unfolds, at times drifting towards abstraction due to the indefinite spatial identity of the points of light. By reducing the motifs to their essential components, Susanne Schuricht creates a link to the great tradition of German fine art photography, especially the night photographs of Thomas Ruff and Andreas Gursky. (Arthur de Ganay, 2011)