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The More Light the Less Sight: Staging Involuntary Memory

Involuntary memory is a subcomponent of memory that occurs when cues encountered in everyday life evoke recollections of the past without conscious effort. Marcel Proust was the first person to coin the term involuntary memory in his novel, “In Search of Lost Time or Remembrance of Things Past.” These memories are characterized by their element of surprise, as they appear to come into conscious awareness spontaneously. They are the products of common everyday experiences such as eating a piece of cake, bringing to mind a past experience evoked by the taste. Working primarily with photography, I try to consciously stage involuntary memories. Instead of using taste or smell (which is commonly associated with involuntary memories) I work with light as a trigger. I defy their nature by actively creating situations in which I hope involuntary memories might appear. I hope for these photographs to be not only documentation of my own search about involuntary memories, but to carry the triggering potential in themselves.

On view is and installation consisting of two photographs (120x97cm) and a video installation consisting of a small video, a book and a bookshelf.

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