

Koi

Where: Night-time entrance to the car park
Who: **Annelies Štrba**. Born 1947 in Zug. Photographer. Video, photo art. Lives and works in Zurich and Melide.
What: **Koi**, 1998, video stills, backlit. 22m long. Processing and realisation 2007: WBG, Weiersmüller Bosshard Grüniger, Atelier für visuelle Kommunikation AG, Zurich. Courtesy of the semina rerum gallery in Zurich.

Annelies Štrba has been taking photographs since her youth, initially focusing on children. She studied photography from 1963 to 1966 and received Switzerland's art award several times in the 1970s, but it wasn't until 1990 that she showed her work publicly for the first time, namely photographs copied on canvas at the Kunsthalle Zürich. She then travelled extensively, for example to East Germany, La Gomera, Japan (Hiroshima, Kobe), Australia and London. Since 1997, she has been working exclusively with video camera. She processes the films on a computer and the resulting video stills are isolated into stand-alone artworks. In her work, Štrba remains committed to realistic imagery but avoids all theatricality. Her focus is on emotionality and directness, themes that the artist already visualises when selecting the range of motif cut-outs: images of cities, children and cityscapes as well as mysterious natural forms, all of which hovers in the space between security, intimacy and isolation.

The artist spent hours with her camera observing colourful carp or 'koi' (reared carp) in fishponds at Japanese temples before processing the films into video stills that can be seen at Sihlcity. In East Asia, carp are seen as holy symbols of strength, as they are the only fish that can fight their way up the waterfalls of the Yellow River. At a busy place like Sihlcity, their colourfulness, patterning and monumentality create an impressive, contemplative atmosphere between reality and fiction.

