

A Portrait in Light and Heat

Where: Restrooms LG
Who: **Ana Gart**
What: Untitled, 2015, backlit. 19 m long. Arrangement and realisation: WBG, Weiersmüller Bosshard Grüniger, Atelier for visual communication AG, Zurich. Courtesy of Galerie semina rerum, Zurich.

The artist Ana Gart operates under a pseudonym and works primarily with photography. She sometimes employs images from her everyday life, at other times appropriating works by other artists, for instance when she photographs film stills. And so with the present work, designed for the space: borrowed from a video by the artist Bill Viola, the work shows an excerpt from the work Chott el-Djerid (A Portrait in Light and Heat) from 1979.

Viola filmed for days on end, mostly in the Tunisian desert, observing the landscape and the minute atmospheric shifts and movements. Through the narrow image detail, transfer of media and magnification, Gart abstracts the landscape – from moving image to a photographed film still – until it becomes a pastel noise of colour, obliquely calling to mind a desert shimmering with heat.

The installation in the narrow walkway imposes a close-up view on the viewer, which, owing to the lack of distance from the visual action, compounds the difficulty in perceiving the image as a landscape –

what could be a window to a far-away, expansive world increasingly coagulates here into an interior mental image, with which viewers unavoidably find themselves confronted.

