



Louise Lawler
**Louise Lawler and/or
Gerhard Richter**
Photographs and Works
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PRESS RELEASE

Louise Lawler and/or Gerhard Richter: Photographs and Works Pictures of Pictures or Observing Art

What happens to a work of art when it leaves the studio and ends up in the hands of others, possibly those lacking art know-how? On the way out into the world it is stored, archived, presented or displayed – in museums, auction houses, galleries, or in the homes of private collectors. During its journey the work of art appears in very different contexts and places, and this influences not least of all the perception of its aesthetic impact and aura. The “object” of art in its individual context is the main theme of American artist Louise Lawler. Born in 1947, Lawler photographs the works of others in situations of over-aestheticized presentation or during their profane handling when being installed in or removed from exhibitions.

Schirmer/Mosel has recently published the book *Louise Lawler and/or Gerhard Richter: Photographs and Works*, a tribute to the international star artist Gerhard Richter. It brings together 29 photographs Lawler has taken over the last 20 years and in which she visually traces the impact of Richter’s world-famous paintings. With a detached and objective gaze the artist captures Richter’s works in a wide variety of contexts and using very different focuses. In some shots the camera lens is very close to the canvas, in others the painting has yet to be hung, and is standing on the floor – sometimes alone, in others next to an Andy Warhol icon – or is just being unpacked by gloved hands. Lawler’s photographs are not only to be understood as documents of found situations but as new aesthetic phrasings presenting abstract excerpts of autonomous color and formal compositions. Lawler’s shots also include images of her own images, which are consequently contextualized in yet another way. With her subtle transformation processes Lawler is thematically close to the art which she appropriates in her photos: Gerhard Richter, too, uses photos and other media forms in his painting.

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Some of Louise Lawler’s works portrayed here were produced during the installation of the 2010 Gerhard Richter exhibition in the Albertinum in Dresden. From April 24 to July 15, 2012 the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden in collaboration with the Gerhard Richter Archiv is presenting in its “Schaukabinett” an installation featuring Louise Lawler’s works, which are the product of an analytical observation of art and are now themselves to be observed as works of art on the walls of exhibition rooms.