



Zurich October 18, 2010

## Press Release

### SCANDERBEG SAUER DECOMMISSIONED

October 30 - December 24, 2010

#### Vernissage

Friday October 29, 2010 7pm

<http://www.mojaveairport.com>

WIDMER+THEODORIDIS contemporary is pleased to present the Zurich-based photographers Andreeana Scanderbeg and Alexander Sauer. In their first t(wo)man show, the couple will exhibit photographs from their 'Decommissioned' series taken at the Mojave Air and Space Port in the Californian desert. Containing 24 images, the book 'Decommissioned' will accompany the show.

While some planes continue landing at large international airports like LAX, ZRH and JFK, MHV marks the end of the line for others: MHV is the IATA airport code for Mojave Air and Space Port and normally signals the last destination these aeroplanes will see. Very few are able to leave here and continue operating, the remainder spend the rest of their existence as a spare parts store.

SCANDERBEG SAUER approached these disused and discarded machines and captured their beat and battered beauty with delicate sensitivity. Since the inception of air travel, the aeroplane has not only transported passengers but has also acted as a projection surface for people's dreams. Who has never yearned to explore the wide world, encounter the unknown, craved the exotic and the feeling of freedom and a new beginning? In the rising Western economy, aeroplanes embody potency and success like no other technological achievement. With the introduction of the wide-bodied passenger airliner, the Boeing 747, aka the 'Jumbo Jet', air travel was finally presented with an icon that would become the emblem of freedom and success for generations of people.

What once stood for dynamism, elegance, beauty and speed now lays askew, jacked up and split open in hot desert sand. Nevertheless, SCANDERBEG SAUER manage to conjure up the resplendent past of these lifeless bodies in their aesthetically flawless images. What we see are the staple favourites: a Jumbo Jet, a DC-10, a Convair – all somewhat worse for wear, but perfectly recognisable. Missing undercarriages, engines and even completely missing wings cannot overshadow beauty. There is nothing left of dynamism here; on the contrary, it is now only the eye that slowly wanders over the image. Nothing more moves. Time has lost its relevance. Man fades out leaving only the relics of his existence behind.

Presenting the attractive side of industries and their products in their commissioned works, SCANDERBEG SAUER now highlight the darker side of the global economy in 'Decommissioned'. Discarded aeroplanes stand as a memorial to inflated air travel, limited oil deposits and an unappeased appetite for greater and cheaper travel. It is not without reason or shame that all traces of the owner's identity have been carefully removed.

<http://www.scanderbegsauer.com>

Andreeana Scanderbeg and Alexander Sauer both live in Zurich and have worked together as SCANDERBEG SAUER since 2005. They are primarily active in the field of corporate, people and industrial photography. Both are executive committee members of the Swiss Professional Photographers and Photo Designers Association SBF and members of the Association of Professional Photographers vfg.