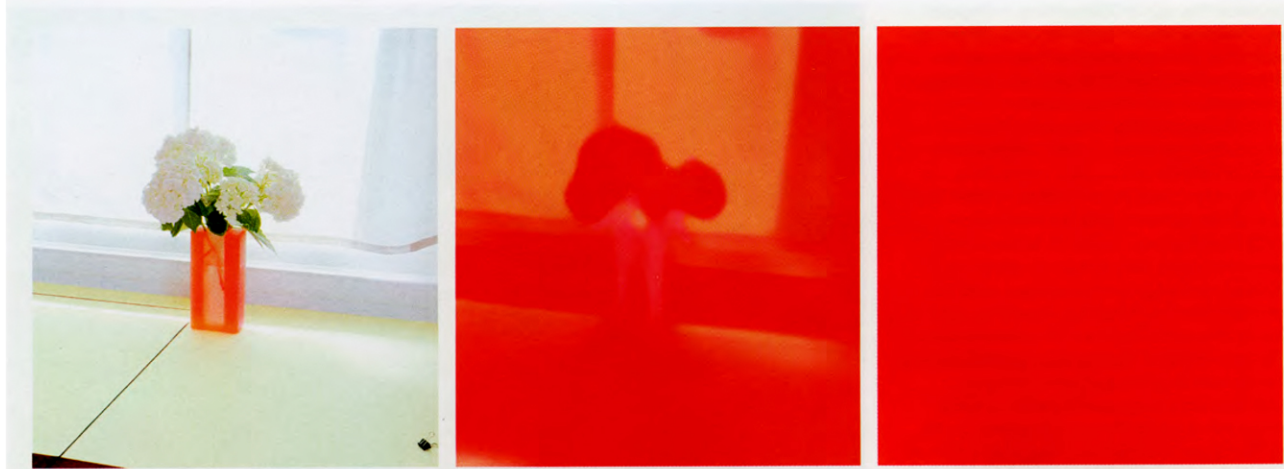


# contemporary

## REVIEWS



Above: Uta Barth, *Untitled (06.10)*, 2006. Courtesy: Alison Jacques Gallery, London. Below: Jim Shaw, *Eyeball TV Model*, 2006. Courtesy: Emily Tsingou Gallery, London

### LONDON: ALISON JACQUES GALLERY

UTA BARTH

28 April – 27 May 2006

[www.alisonjacquesgallery.com](http://www.alisonjacquesgallery.com)

A band of photographs, placed in groups of three and five panels, stretches almost continuously through the whole gallery space. German born, Los Angeles based artist Uta Barth has taken pictures of flowers on her desk, through the progress of time. The angle of the compositions is geometric and almost minimal, though interrupted by the softness of the flowers. The artist plays with the viewer's perception by diffusing the imagery into abstraction and transforming the original photograph into plain colour fields. The untitled series is characterised throughout by a vivid red, in which she seems to dip the pictures. It complements the contrasting ghostly white light which breaks through the window of these scenes.

Beyond this visual experience, Barth has managed to capture a dynamic stillness. Upon closer contemplation of each work, it becomes

clear that she has traced time: the smooth turning of blossoms according to the movement of daylight and the shedding of petals. Eventually an image of an empty vase sets the space in slow motion and the band display into a kind of loop installation. In the upstairs gallery, two diptychs from Barth's 2000 series 'and of time' once more emphasise the notion of subtle movement. One depicts a detail of a couch. Next to each other, the two photographs that make up the diptych seem identical. However the rays of sunlight have wandered across the couch, marking the passage of time.

Barth's photography has the tactility of painting and furthermore references the conceptual qualities of the genre of Dutch still life and its connotation of death and passing. The work in this show successfully reflects on the fastness of contemporary life in contrast to the slowness of natural elements.

LISA BOSSE