

G A L E R I E G I S E L A C A P I T A I N

ELFIE SEMOTAN

Light Without Resistance

July 21 – September 04, 2022

Galerie Gisela Capitain is pleased to present Elfie Semotan's third solo exhibition at the gallery. Within the past four decades Semotan has created a diverse body of photographic works, ranging from landscapes, nudes, fashion photographs, portraits as well as still lifes. With her photographs she has radically and very successfully shaped the Austrian fashion and advertising scene, critically examining modes of representation and display.

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A photograph is more obviously about a specific moment and perspective taken. One cannot do much more than let the light and photographic technique have their say.

— Elfie Semotan —

In 2003, renowned Austrian photographer Elfie Semotan embarked on a three-week journey through the Libyan desert accompanied by Austrian writer and intellectual Christian Reder (the trip's organizer) and eight students from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Equipped with three analog cameras—a 35 mm, a panorama 24 x 65 mm, and a medium format 6 x 7 cm—and 150 rolls of film, Semotan created a rich body of work that captures the varied environments she encountered in the desert outside of the city of Tripoli. Ranging from photographs of places that were naturally formed as well as those built and cultivated by people, the resulting series exemplifies Semotan's distinct ability to harness the unique light and atmospheric effects of her surroundings and the spaces she photographs.

The exhibition, *Elfie Semotan: Light Without Resistance* at Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne, features 29 photographs from the artist's journey that capture the nearly imperceptible life running through the landscape.

— excerpt from the accompanying publication with an essay by Anna Stothart —

Elfie Semotan had institutional solo exhibitions at Kunst Haus Wien, Vienna, 2021, C/O Berlin, 2019, Leopold Museum, Vienna, 2018, FLATZ Museum, Dornbirn, 2017, Kunsthalle Krems, 2013, and Museum der Moderne, Salzburg, 2010, among others.