

Jean-Baptiste Perrot

Accidents

The five emulsified photographs on metallic paper by the French artist Jean-Baptiste Perrot are an assembly of fine lines of colours creating vertical compositions of abstract forms (see also Flusser Studies 31). Covered with a layer of resin, the photographs seem to be inlaid in a slightly shimmering paper. These pictures are not the result of any technical manipulation. They are taken with a series of digital cameras from the early 2000s. The cameras are unusual in having a sensor with an industrial defect which appears randomly after several months of use. The result is a glitch, an accidental and unpredictable digital error, a kind of bug that appears visually on a digital image. Hence their title: Accident. Jean-Baptiste Perrot does not control anything. No link occurs between the subject he immortalizes and the composition that follows. Everything is possible, as if present time plays on people by being at the junction of multiple interactions (internal / external, individual / systemic, programmed / random). This complex environment produces an unpredictable experience, difficult to grasp, an accident coded in a colour effect.