

BUG 2015-ONGOING

Rémy Artiges

French photographer Rémy Artiges creates documentary projects that trace the contemporary use of images and our relationship with the natural world. Previously photographing subjects such as agricultural fairs, deforestation and the route of a new high-speed train, here he puts the focus on insects and other small creatures. Taking dead specimens, he places them directly into an analogue camera then shoots, creating images showing the bugs against landscapes such as fading zoos, failed modernist projects and declining military hardware. Representing these animals at larger-than-life size, Artiges' work quite literally foregrounds them and, by extension, their dramatic disappearance. Often overlooked, or even purposely eradicated, bugs are essential to our planet's wellbeing. Insects have declined in abundance by 75% in the last 50 years due to intensifying agriculture and rising global temperatures, and this apocalypse threatens the continuation of all other life.

Artiges' series also suggests a disruption to the photographic process by drawing attention to the camera itself. Offering near-literal flies in the ointment, his images employ multiples and repetition, allowing the landscapes to shift, but the bugs remain unchanged. Artiges leaves the small parts of the animals' bodies that break off and litter the lens too, further obscuring the view – or, more precisely, redirecting attention.







