

Parcours – Schools above Ground

In order to clarify the “methods” applied at the start of my dealing with pictorial representation, which was always intertwined with ‘body topics’, I would like to describe in more detail the treatment of the copperplate engravings taken from J. E. Ridinger’s *Vorstellung der Schul und Campagneferde nach ihren Lectionen*, Augsburg 1760.

These manifestations are culturally expressive forms of intensification, processes of idealising material, organic or living actualities, which reflect the structure of thinking about and perceiving the world in different epochs.

From the 46 copperplate engravings that comprise Ridinger’s ‘Lectionen’, I selected 19 sheets and placed them in a new sequence entitled *Parcours*.

In a process that lasted one year, I “operated” the horses and horsemen out of the pictures by means of photocopying and collage. I retained the description of the positions of the horses that were once depicted.

The work now only consists of original scale copies of views of the empty spaces and the describing text of the exercises from the ‘high school’ of horse dressage.

I thus eliminated the depiction of a horse’s body trained according to aesthetical aspects, which of course could also be used in a more precise way for military purposes.

What is revealed here is the relation of 18th-century humans to their own physicality/materiality and the resulting thought and action, a consciousness that I believe is still handed down until this day.