

Thomas Heinser, *Reduziert*, Gallery 16, 2/17/16

Heinser has presented aerial photographs of the Central Valley and the Bay Salt Flats. Since Lawrence's Captive Airship aerial photographs in 1900 we have been fascinated by the views from above. Now with Google satellite images available, the aerial view is common place. Heinser's photographs are anything but common place.

These are large images, over fifty inches on a side. They are printed on a beautiful flat matte paper. The white boarder (about 4") which is usually a mat is actually the unprinted portion of the photo paper. The images appear to be photographed perpendicular to the earth's surface. The overall impression is of flat abstractions. Stepping close to the images the viewer can identify the reality by finding a car, or a yellow center line on pavement, or a tree, or some other detail.

Visually, these are more interesting as abstractions than records of the earth. The salt flat images are reminiscence of abstract expressionism. The valley pictures continue the abstract flatness despite being photographs of rolling hills and trees. These also appear to be photographed in low sun angles casting long shadows, yet remaining flat.

Unlike many photographic abstractions, these pictures cause an emotional response. It is not a defined specific response, more of a mystery and wonder. They appear as growing organic fields of color.

