



Jessica Backhaus

Six Degrees of Freedom

If we search for our roots, we must access memory. Paradoxically, the act of recalling creates a new memory; an amalgam of the original occurrence imprinted with experiences we've accumulated along the way. The search for certainty in these memories ultimately forms a new truth and a baseline for personal identity. In her new series, **Jessica Backhaus** (1970, Germany) searches for her origins by photographing places and atmospheres from her memories. Based on her own life story, she inquires into the significance of knowing one's origins, concentrating on themes of identity, yearning and destiny.

The title, *Six Degrees of Freedom*, refers to principles of movement of an object in three-dimensional space. In capturing fragments of her past, Backhaus attempts to freeze the freedom of movement into easier-to-analyse slices of time and space. Backhaus shoots through windows and translucent curtains, into reflective surfaces and directly from above to compress distance into flat planes.

As frozen images form new narratives, they replace the foggy memories from personal history with tangible ones that can be scrutinized. Backhaus' photographs poetically evoke her quest to tame her personal history, whilst offering viewers a moment to reflect on the construction of their own identities.

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