

Parasol unit

foundation for contemporary art

14 Wharf Road | London | N1 7RW

the guardian

Opening this week: Elger Esser, London

Robert Clark, The Guardian Guide, 25 March 2017

exhibitions

Opening this week



Elger Esser London

Elger Esser's large-format Morgenland photographs are gorgeous - troublingly so, in the sense that they tend to leave the viewer with a sense of melancholic wonderment. Travelling through Lebanon, Egypt and Israel, and wielding a precision 8x10 Land camera, Esser has recorded the passing landscape as an embodiment of centuries of cross-cultural influence and change. Horizons tend to be low, skies vast. Shorelines appear like interzones between waking and dreaming.

Colours, although often sepia pale, deeply glow. There are knowing hints of the faded sublimity of age-old hand-tinted postcards. Yet history is viewed less with nostalgia than as an accumulation of shared experience. On a double-sided silver-coated copper plate, back-to-back landscapes capture the same view, one seen from the Lebanon side, the other from Israel. The almost identical images are together titled One Sky. **Robert Clark**
Parasol Unit, N1, Wed to 21 May