

“WHAT’S MOST IMPORTANT IS TO WALK THROUGH LIFE WITH OPEN EYES AND AN OPEN MIND.”

Manfred Koch



Manfred Koch Meerhimmelland I, Ltd. Edition of 150 signed, Item No. MKC03, 23.6x35.4 in. / 60x90 cm (other sizes available), \$799 / £649 / €699



Erik Chmil Villa Cipressi, Ltd. Edition of 150 signed, Item No. ECH55, 27.6x38.6 in. / 70x98 cm (other sizes available), \$1,049 / £799 / €899

Erik Chmil, by contrast, works solely with so-called available light. For his subjects the artist draws primarily on Italian landscapes, on a Mediterranean splendour that stands in marked contrast to the distinctive architecture which occupies it. Here, the motif of the window view evolves into the genre of picture within a picture – hence the series' title: *Open Views*. Belonging to this wistful prospect, of course, is the actual locale; in the present example, Villa Cipressi, near Lake Como. Thus, Chmil's works evoke the condition of contemplative repose while at the same time seducing the viewers' dreams to radiate out into the vastness of the landscape.

By means of an adept use of long exposure and subtle movements during shooting, photographer **Manfred Koch** achieves striking effects of blurring and dissolution. Similarly, in his pictures the painterly aspect inherent to photography is style-forming. Yet the form of artificiality still retains its source in the resolute, masterly play of light, apparatus and light-sensitive layer in the photographic process. The expanse as motif, the turbulent sea, the wafting clouds bathed in gentle light are all inscribed in the picture through the medium of a prolonged split second of light. The photographic image merges seamlessly with the subject, enhancing it to the realm of the abstract. The artist refers to the resulting images, reminiscent of German Romanticism, as *Meerhimmelland* (Sea-Sky-Shore).