

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

June 17, 2019

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Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences

### **‘Studio + Laboratory: Workshops of Knowledge’ to Open at NAS**

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Studio + Laboratory: Workshops of Knowledge.” This exhibition by German artist and visual arts professor Stefanie Bürkle features 38 photographs of artists’ studios and scientists’ laboratories in Berlin. The exhibition was organized by the Berlin Museum of Photography. It opens Aug. 1, 2019 and will remain on view through Jan. 31, 2020 at the National Academy of Sciences.

Be it artistic works or scientific discoveries, the end results are all that generally remain visible of the creative process. What happens behind closed doors in the laboratory or studio tends to be just as invisible as it is mysterious. Stefanie Bürkle chose to delve into these sites of creativity, using large and medium-format analogue cameras to photograph scientists’ laboratories and artists’ studios. The series juxtaposes photographs of labs—mostly taken at the Technical University of Berlin where Bürkle is the sole visual arts professor—with images of studios of artists including Tomás Saraceno, Anselm Reyle, and Asta Gröting.

Bürkle’s photographic works present intriguing visual puzzles. Each is a bewildering mosaic of storage shelves, work benches, tools, equipment, and half-finished projects that convey a sense of energy and creativity. The viewer is compelled to imagine what these spaces look like when populated and what types of activities would take place. The photographs reveal a curious similarity between studio and laboratory. Would we see the same similarities if we were watching artists and scientists at work? Perhaps, but not necessarily. By pointing her lens at the work spaces rather than the workers, Bürkle encourages us to look past some of the superficial differences between artists and scientists and to consider whether at a deeper level there are significant parallels in the creative processes of the two disciplines and to better understand the nature of creativity.

Stefanie Bürkle is an artist and a professor of fine art at the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. She studied scenography in Paris and fine art at the Berlin University of the Arts. Her artistic practice ranges from painting and photography to video and installation. In addition to highlighting the connections between art and science, her art and research focus on a critical examination of urban space, exploring topics such as construction sites and facades, architecture as scenography, and theme parks and tourism.

“Studio + Laboratory: Workshops of Knowledge” will be on exhibit at the National Academy of Sciences building, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required and there is no charge. For more information, visit [www.cpnas.org](http://www.cpnas.org).

**Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences** sponsors exhibitions, the D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous salon, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. **(Continues on page 2)**

**Press images:**



**Left to right from upper left:** *Studio of Anselm Reyle*, 2018, inkjet print, 15 x 20 inches; *Parallel Optical Research Testbed And Laboratory (PORTAL)*, immersive production system CAVE, *Institute of Mathematics, Technical University of Berlin*, 2017, inkjet print, 15 x 20 inches; *Berlin Electro Storage Ring (BESSY) Helmholtz Center Berlin, Adlershof*, 2001, inkjet print mounted on aluminum, 78.7 x 63 inches; *Studio of Tomás Saraceno*, 2018, inkjet print, 11 x 14 inches.

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