

About The Work With Netcam Images

My collection of webcam images has been put together over a period of 13 years. The archive contains more than 3 million images, downloads from all continents - the world wide web provides a lot. I photograph the world, using publicly accessible netcams, which give access to public and private space.

Netcams document the world - without hesitation. They post images onto the net in an alternating rhythm. Images appear briefly on the screen before being overwritten again and again by subsequent images (these images are therefore authentic and straightforward) Taking a picture by netcam means, that there is no conventional active photographer, who selects the view with his camera. Image sections of netcams at public places stay determined for many years. Also private cams constantly show the same environment.

This is unknown territory in the history of traditional photography too: Suddenly the camera has a thousand eyes. Different lenses get connected to just one camera, which is taking pictures steadily. The local screen assumes the role of the viewfinder, the mouse operates as the trigger, and the netcam becomes the optical device.

Camera lens and camera viewfinder operate separately - different to a conventional camera - sometimes continents apart. Camera lenses are embedded in a private or public environment. The lenses stare at the incidents, outside wind and weather, fauna and flora, inside being exposed to the impertinences of private cam users - behaving always with integrity. It is the world itself that plays to the gallery. Not blind to the obvious, camera lenses document, register, scan, deliver.

An authorless image-device, globalised photography.

The course of events forces itself upon the susceptible webcams. They provoke certain pictures due to their relative autonomy and the method of construction. It is impossible to produce such pictures with a conventional camera. Lens and viewfinder are separated by distance - this condition makes the mentioned quality possible. Netcams are representative reporters, embedded in the course of events. They report on everything.

Private netcams present intimate scenes to the public. They probably serve as a sort of communication and ideally blend in to the everyday life of the inhabitants. In this case the protagonists treat the camera as if it were a low-maintenance (and possibly little neurotic) pet. Strategic purposes as well as the intension of the cam owners are not always evident. This makes you haste (actually it depends on the level of ambition) from cam to cam, from continent to continent, hoping to be at the right time at the right place, like a conventional photographer on the prowl – on the one hand.

On the other hand working with netcams forces you to conceptual work, this means that it is obvious to accentuate the serial nature of the images. The fix view, the continuous insight of the public and domestic netcams and the refreshing authorless character is also an essential emphasis.

Netcams document the world, using all these characteristics and give you the possibility to reconsider and extend the work with photographic material.