Museum für Gestaltung Zürich Freundeskreis

Edition 2013



Mexico City, San Cristobal (Luís Barragan), 1976

René Burri

C-print, 2013 Edition of 20 24 × 36 cm framed, signed CHF 1000 SOLD OUT

A handful of René Burri's (1933–2014) color images have become icons of photographic history. "Estables San Cristobal" from 1976 is one of those rare works. Burri developed an unerring eye for geometry in image composition early on in Hans Finsler's photography class at what was then the Kunstgewerbeschule Zürich. This flair for geometry was shared by the Mexican architectural virtuoso Luis Barragán (1902–1988), who masterfully deployed space and color in his work. His *San Cristobal* horse stables on the outskirts of Mexico City form a serene oasis in the midst of the urban jungle. Even today, every guest is given a friendly welcome, and for a small fee the sophisticated waterfall is turned on and one of the horses brought out of the stables. And yet only René Burri has succeeded in firmly anchoring this key work of Mexican postwar modernism in our collective visual memory.