Museum für Gestaltung Zürich

Freundeskreis

Edition 2012



«Fôret», 2005–2017, Deponie Bonfol, Oktober 2011, Nr. 290

Christian Schwager

C-Print, 2012 Edition of 20 40 × 50 cm framed, signed CHF 600 / CHF 480 (members) available in the shops

After World War II, chemical companies in Basel began to build large landfills on the border between Germany, Switzerland, and France to store chemical waste. One of these landfills is set in a wooded area in Bonfol in the Jura region. Between 1961 and 1976, the Basel Chemical Industry (BCI) disposed of over 114,000 tons of chemical waste in a former clay pit there. The hazardous waste landfill was shut down in 1976 and reforested, but initial redevelopment measures in the eighties already revealed leaks. Under pressure from the public and the canton of Jura, BCI carried out a full clean-up, with further reforesting upon completion (2015). Photographer Christian Schwager (b. 1966) documented this remarkable chapter of industrial history in a long-term study (2005–2017). The edition shows the deceptively idyllic mixed forest before the remediation measures, with highly toxic waste still slumbering underground.