

## OSTRALE'012 - Homegrown

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**O12** OSTRALE'012

Internationale Ausstellung  
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## MAGNIFY MALTA - installation with 5 slide projections - by Myriam Thyes

At the Ostrale'012, Myriam Thyes will show her photo series MAGNIFY MALTA for the first time as an installation of slide projections. Kindly supported by the Swiss arts council Pro Helvetia.

### MAGNIFY MALTA

Myriam Thyes, 2010, 50 photographs

Since Malta joined the European Union, refugees have been arriving in palpably increasing numbers on the island's shores, especially from East Africa. At the same time, the arid island is witnessing a construction boom with speculators building hotels and holiday apartments which often stand empty for long periods. Malta's battle-ridden history as a bastion of the Western-European-Christian world in the face of Turkish and Arab incursion becomes visible in the traces of the Order of the Knights of St John. Today their fortification walls are moorings for yachts and cruise liners of ever-increasing scale.

### Michael Staab writes in 'The Whole Picture. Take Widened':

" ... To attain a widening of the first glance beyond the pure idyll is the goal in Myriam Thyes's photographic series, Magnify Malta. The picture area she has selected in each case and the compilation sequences of images show no nature shots but the constructed states of mind of the inhabitants. The raw, Mediterranean charm of the craggy island environment and the special quality of the light quickly become conditional with citadel-like, rambling residential estates and log-cabin constructions of unwelcoming, fort-like air. In a number of the pictures, these observations undergo yet further heightening through compositional intervention. Within the photographically recorded observations, almost imperceptible digital manipulation on the artist's part intercalates religious artefacts and military apparatus from different centuries, to emerge into view on modern house walls or in current city prospects. Astonishingly, these photo-montages do not appear in the least provocative or exaggerated, but rather, self-evident and natural ..."

