



Paul Ogier *Hauptbahnhof, Berlin*. 2007

edition. 5 (five)

description. archival pigment on rag paper

image size. 260mm x 195mm (W x H)

paper size. 500mm x 470mm

This photograph uses the reverse setting of Germany's largest train station, deliberately not shown but rather kept behind the photographer, to comment on the notion of resettled ground. From the vantage point of the largest two-story train station in Europe is an image devoid of the commercial sophistication of Western culture. Stripped back and marked for redevelopment, this scene contains everything expected in a train station—people, boxes and various lines indicating passage yet the detritus becomes symbolic of all the missing elements; dirt mounds for buildings, weeds for gardens, and safety tape helps to indicate the location of footpaths. Instead of suggesting the superiority of Berlin Hauptbahnhof as a technological achievement, this scene discusses another aspect of the Berliner psyche.

Hauptbahnhof is the German term for “main railway station”, and is used to designate the principal passenger railway station of major towns and cities which have multiple stations.