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JACQUELINE HEER
Galerie Zur Stockeregg
Zurich

Born in Switzerland but a longtime resident of North Carolina, Jacqueline Heer drew from her adopted home for this lively show of manipulated photographs titled "Facing South." To create her images of farmhouses, rural roads, open fields, and stormy skies, the artist took photos of her surroundings, simultaneously projected several slides of those images onto a surface, then photographed the composite scene.

In one small series, each photograph portrays a slightly different version of a truck trailer standing near a small house. A strip of highway seamlessly lies between the truck and the house in one photo. In another, a road curves gently before them, while in yet another image, streetlights traverse the sky, suddenly rendering the scene less rural. Viewed together, the works revealed their trickery, but taken alone, each photo appeared both plausible and magical. Heer seems to capture scenes not as they actually appear but as our memory imagines them years later, colored with the emotions of the moment.

In some photos, large sections are obscured by shadowy black expanses, as if viewers were looking at the scene through their fingers. But these lacked the dark ethereality of Heer's more subtly layered pieces, whose initially believable and ultimately impossible mix of focal points and light qualities lend them an air of portentousness.

-Marc Spiegler