

World of Art



**The Photograph as
Contemporary Art**

Thames
&Hudson

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Many Postinternet artists who are shaping the field of photography as contemporary art began their creative lives in the haptic, social era of digital photography. Invariably, these digital-native artists experiment across contexts, with the gallery as just one intended space alongside online platforms and both traditional and digital publishing. This generation of practitioners are distinctly agnostic in their attitudes, drawing from all areas of creative cultures and visual messaging and cognizant of the fluidity with which they can move between forms and the tools of their engagement. One such artist, Anne de Vries (b. 1977), works with photography, sculpture and new media. He imaginatively combines a constellation of references, such as Modernist conventions of sculptural art-making, with visual motifs that reference advertising and amateur photography, utilizing new industry-standard image and object-making technologies. His work distils contemporary visual culture into sculptural experiences that abstract and hold (two highly photographic capacities) the personal and social impact of technologies upon the human psyche.

The overarching narrative of John Houck's (b. 1977) practice can be read as a meditation on the feedback loop of digital and photographic reproduction and the way it can be interrupted by desire. Houck's first wave of critical attention came from



253 Anne de Vries, *Interface - Downstairs*, 2014. De Vries distils elements of contemporary visual culture, particularly corporate and commercial imagery, into image-objects that visualize the influence of digital technologies on our personal and social worlds.

