



Wind tunnel test center, BMW Group Research & Innovation Centre

What A Futuristic Car Factory Looks Like When Work Stops And Humans Leave

The freshly raised assembly line of this German BMW factory stops for an auto-wash this photograph. The results are an eerie commentary on our life with technology.

The BMW factory near Munich in Germany is a place obsessed with time. From quality control to car maintenance, the workers at this plant have a photographic eye for detail. In preparation for a specific testing phase, he wanted to show what happens when time stands still.

"I'd like to think of these images as offering an encounter with a time machine. I want to capture the moment when the workers of production have left. The idea of stopping time for a highly industrialized environment is somewhat ironic, given our dependence on technology to move on in the future."

Each of the photos was taken during a three-hour shift in a scheduled stop between shifts or models of a car or even a model repair. It required precise timing of cameras to capture the car before the production line with exposures as long as 45 minutes. It is not critical that machines remain turned on and ready to work.

Martin sees his photos as a point of reflection to the past, present, and future. "The only way to achieve this was to slow down time. That's why I made use of long exposures."

The series, called 00:00, isn't a critique of automation or capitalism, but it's a glimpse into the future. It's about the pace of the 21st and our relationship with technology and industry.



Assembly line test center. This is one of two crash test centers belonging to the BMW Group, located in Augsburg.



Plant shop, BMW Group Plant Munich.

Martin shot during production breaks using a small handheld flash gun and available lighting, making exposure between 1 and 45 minutes long.

Almost at night, the plant looks like "a sort of post-apocalyptic world of steel."

"It's not just the plants themselves that are visible in the images, but also the workers and the machines. I'd like to think that these images also look beyond the immediate future."

At the plant, Martin saw the production when around 100 tons of steel are turned into cars. He saw the workers and the machines. He saw the workers and the machines. He saw the workers and the machines.

"It's a complex site like this in factories at the level of precision it has. There has to be a perfect alignment and precision of time and space. It's not just the machines and processes. And building them is a quite remarkable, for me."



Crash test center, BMW Group Research & Innovation Centre (RIZ).



Assembly Line, BMW Group Plant Munich.



Plant shop, BMW Group Plant Munich.



Plant shop, BMW Group Plant Munich.



Crash test center, BMW Group Research & Innovation Centre (RIZ).

Factories and data processing centers are, perhaps, the most relevant production centers of our time. Martin says. The idea of slowing time is to capture the moment when the workers of production have left. The idea of stopping time for a highly industrialized environment is somewhat ironic, given our dependence on technology to move on in the future."

Car factories have helped shape the world we live in and will continue to shape it again as companies race to create change. He says. The automotive industry faces some major challenges over the next decades, as it aims to deal with the internet, electric cars, and jobs of the internal combustion engine and its environmental consequences.

The photos also show what factories look like without people—something that's not really a regular sight. It's not just the machines and processes. It's a complex site like this in factories at the level of precision it has. There has to be a perfect alignment and precision of time and space. It's not just the machines and processes. And building them is a quite remarkable, for me."

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Amélie Peters is a 30-year-old German photographer and filmmaker. She has worked for the BMW Group Research & Innovation Centre for several years as a specialist in photography and video.