The photographic moment between “narrativity and stasis” (George Baker 2008) was the focus of the symposium ON LOOKING III, Transformations of the Moment | The Photographic View in Contemporary Art (2015). By transferring Rosalind Krauss’ term “expanded field” onto the medium of photography, an exciting discourse developed and opened up new aspects that focused not only on the isolated, frozen moment, but rather expanded the view on the relationship between the still image and the series, as well as the moving image.

The symposium ON LOOKING IV, The Moving Image | Photographic Views in Contemporary Art (2017) takes on this dynamic, continues this train of thought, and places video art at the centre of discussion. This interdisciplinary conference serves to investigate the moving image, the “projected image” (Rosalind Krauss 1976), the “reflexive medium” (Yvonne Spielmann 2005), as well as the photographic views in contemporary art. Questions regarding the relationship between the still- and the moving image in video art, as well as the creative process and the conceptual strategies of artists will also be discussed. Emphasis is placed on the question of how artists define their photographic views in contemporary art and what the relationship is between the photographic moment and the moving image, the video. Furthermore, technical, stylistic, and contextual changes will be thematized, which in recent years were created through the transition from analogue to digital images.

“All art is experimental or it isn’t art. Art is research”
Gene Youngblood 1

“What makes the work interesting is if you choose the right questions. Then, as you proceed, the answers are what’s interesting.”
Bruce Nauman 2

Following Bruce Nauman’s demand for the “right questions,” international experts will thoroughly consider the moving image. Artist talks with Hans Op de Beeck, Peter Downsbrough, and Pedro Barateiro will serve as a forum in which current positions of contemporary art and photographic views are presented, and aesthetically, theoretically, and historically significant aspects will be discussed, both through the perspective of the visual arts and with respect to the development of the processual nature and materiality of art practice.

The research project etc | expanding the contemporary was launched in 2011. Its aim is to pursue a discussion of the complex thematic field of the artist’s edition (printing, photography, video art, film, artists’ books, multiples and performance art) from academic as well as from the artist’s and practice-oriented points of view with a focus on contemporary art.

One of the forums of etc is the symposium series ON LOOKING, organised in collaboration with the Kunsthalle Zürich, since 2017. It is an interdisciplinary platform to promote a dialogue and exchange among scholars, curators, artists, and professionals on an international scale. The symposium offers a space to discuss current issues such as artist research, curatorial criteria, questions of art theory and aesthetics, and visual media. Its aims are to formulate clear positions and to re-evaluate traditional definitions, meanings, and practices of canonisation in order to discover and define new avenues in the interactions between science and artistic practices.

2 Grabner, Michelle, Mary Jane Jacob (ed.), The Studio Reader: On the Space of Artists, Chicago 2010, p. 64