

BASEMENT

Poster-sized, framed pigment prints line the room. Each of the 58 prints in the series follows the same format, depicting a firearm, its model name, manufacturer and place of manufacture, and technical details such as cartridge size, magazine capacity, dimensions and weight.

This is *Firearms* by Lutz Bacher from 2019. The artist has reproduced and significantly enlarged pages from a handbook on the repair and maintenance of firearms. This method draws attention to the unique characteristics of the paper itself: some sheets are more yellowed and discoloured than others. The pages are so thin that the reverse sides are partially visible as shadows.

The concise, factual texts beneath the images describe the technology, construction and intended use of each weapon. It's through this matter-of-fact tone that something else becomes apparent: firearms are entirely ordinary commodities – traded internationally and collected privately and yet an index of violence and loss.

Firearms is the American artist's final completed work. It was first exhibited in 2019 at the Cologne branch of Galerie Buchholz. In Cologne, the prints were presented in alphabetical order by model name – just as they are here at mumok.

The series breaks off at one point but then continues through further sections of the prologue.

Exit the cellar and you'll see a wall, oddly low, with a door you can't pass through – this is the living room.