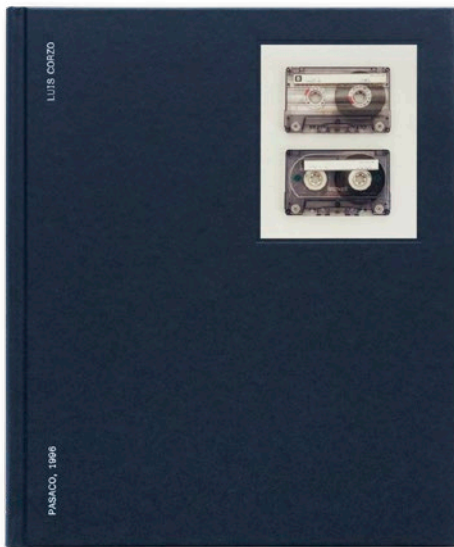


VULT

KULT BOOKS
SPRING 2024 CATALOGUE



NOMINEES FOR PARIS-PHOTO - APERTURE PHOTOBOOK AWARDS:



PASACO, 1996
Luis Corzo

First Photobook Award



EL RETRATO DE TU AUSENCIA
Alejandro Morales

First Photobook Award



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NOEMA

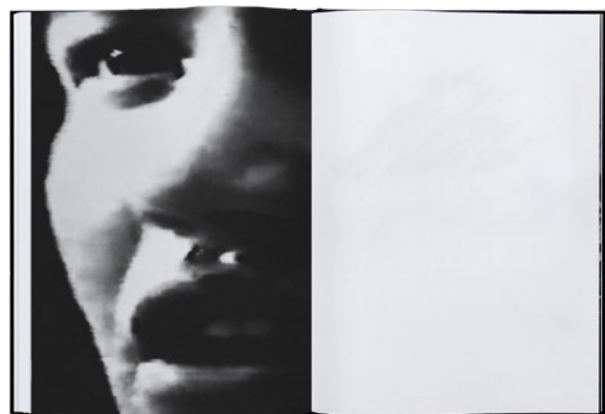
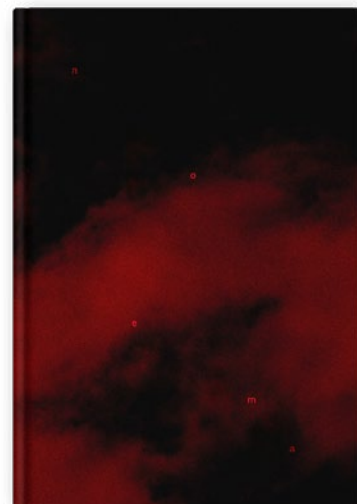
Michael Swann

In 1961, in the small Spanish village of San Sebastian de Garabandal, four young girls had an apparition of the Virgin Mary. They entered a state of ecstasy in which they became completely unaware of their surroundings and sensory perceptions. Reportedly, witnesses would pinch the girls, pierce their skin with needles, lift them up and drop them onto rough rocks, and yet they remained entranced. Twenty years later, in the town of Medjugorje, in Bosnia & Herzegovina, six children also had simultaneous visions of the Virgin, with similar ecstatic qualities.

In his debut book *Noema* Michael Swann investigates the aura of place and religious experience by searching for signs of the Virgin Mary's presence in these two locations. Alongside original photographs made at both sites, *Noema* also includes images that have been appropriated from video footage of the visionaries taken during their apparitions.

Hardcover with red foiling
176 pages, 56 photographs
Offset printing
15 x 21 cm

First edition of 400 copies
ISBN 978-91-987606-8-2
Designed by Janne Riikonen and Michael Swann
May 2024





THE PERFECT CRIME: Concerning the Murder of Reality

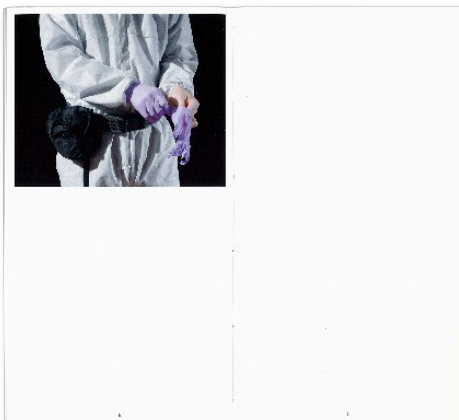
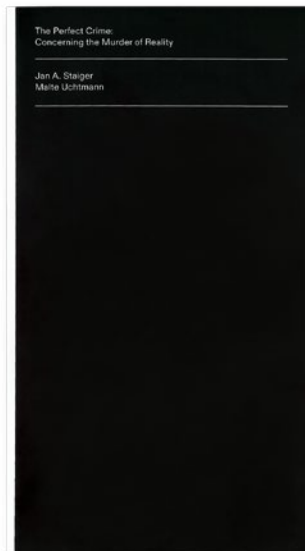
Jan Staiger & Malte Uchtmann

Between the finite human life and death, there is a suspended moment in which one passes from one to the other. Those who bear witness to this transition are the caretakers responsible for performing the final treatment. They cleanse the bodies, dress them, comb their hair and arrange them in a peaceful repose for the very last time. The caretakers attend to the deceased almost as if they were living, a testament to a uniquely human trait that has existed throughout time and across all cultures. The performance of these last rituals is a human way to demonstrate the ability to face and address mortality. In her debut book *Transi*, Margot Jourquin documents this liminal instant between the two realms and the people who prepare the dead for their burial.

Silk screened, thermochromic softcover
Swiss bound book with foldouts
216 pages
Offset printing
16 x 28 cm

Two texts by Karen Fromm and Andrea Kretschmann & Aldo Legnaro

First edition of 1000 copies
ISBN 978-91-984059-8-9
Designed by Jan Staiger, Malte Uchtmann and Max Heinemann
April 2024





TRANSI

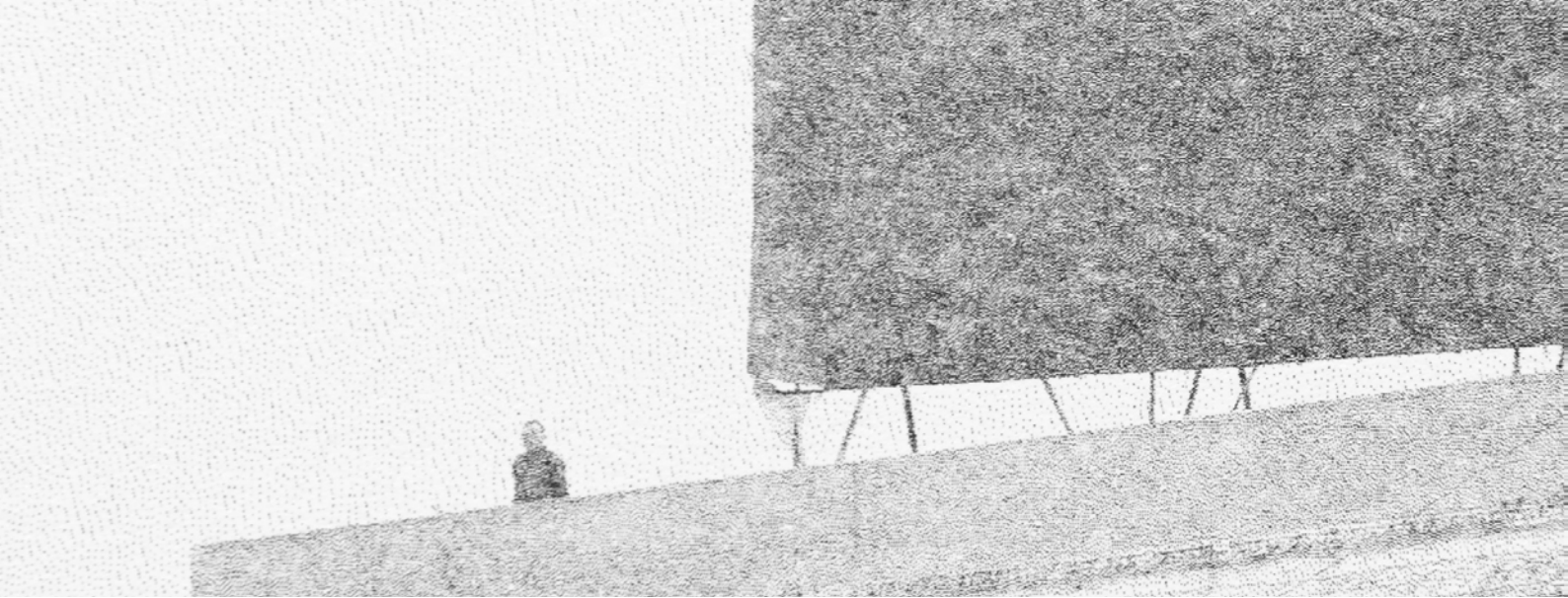
Margot Jourquin

Between the finite human life and death, there is a suspended moment in which one passes from one to the other. Those who bear witness to this transition are the caretakers responsible for performing the final treatment. They cleanse the bodies, dress them, comb their hair and arrange them in a peaceful repose for the very last time. The caretakers attend to the deceased almost as if they were living, a testament to a uniquely human trait that has existed throughout time and across all cultures. The performance of these last rituals is a human way to demonstrate the ability to face and address mortality. In her debut book *Transi*, Margot Jourquin documents this liminal instant between the two realms and the people who prepare the dead for their burial.

Two intertwined booklets in embossed soft covers
2 x 44 pages
34 photographs
Duotone offset printing
Pamphlet stitch binding
22.5 x 27 cm

First edition of 400 copies
ISBN 978-91-987607-0-5
Designed by Margot Jourquin and Janne Riikonen
November 2023





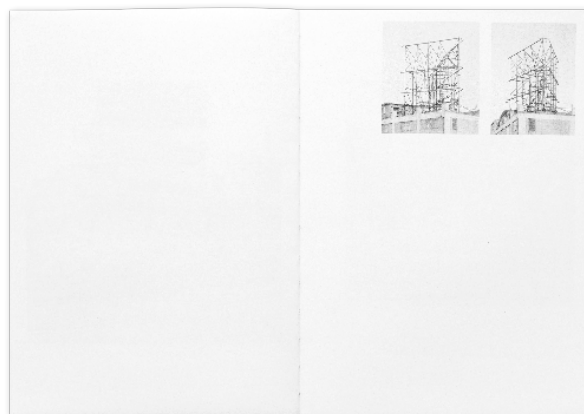
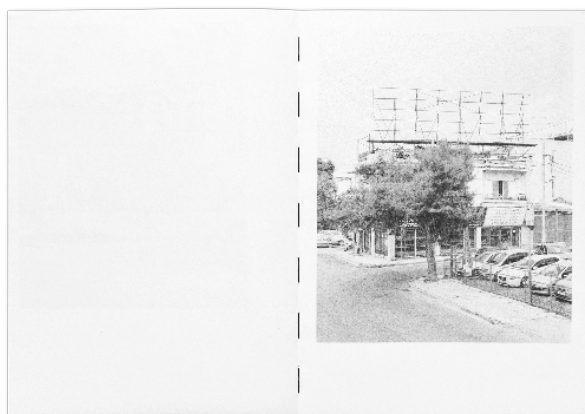
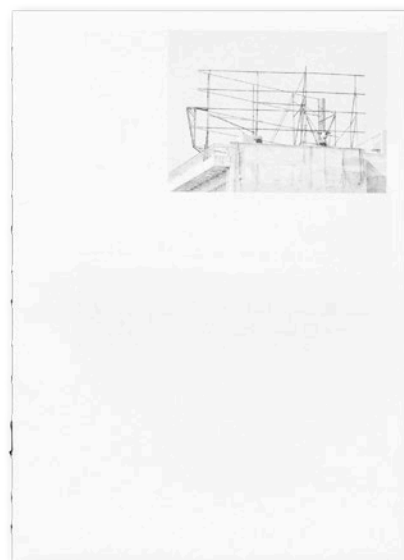
NOTES FOR OUR LEGACY

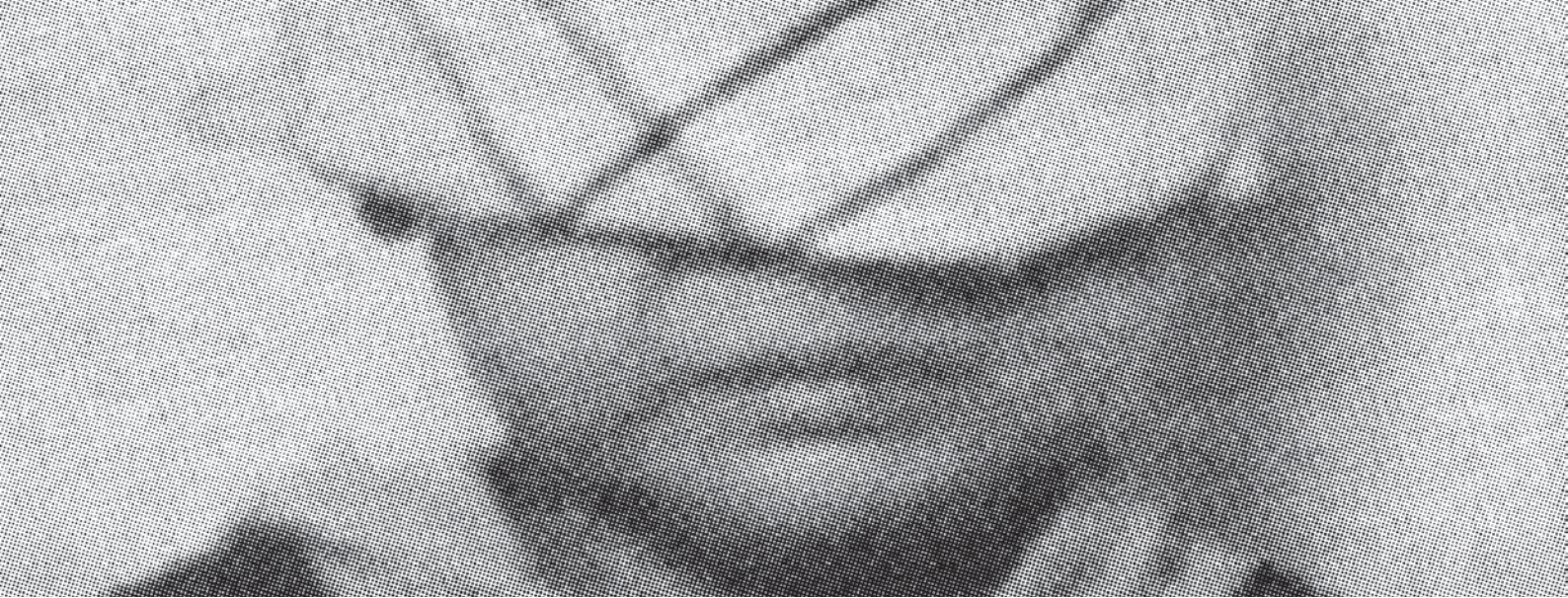
Janne Riikonen

Billboards are strategically set up in high traffic areas, designed to catch our attention. They are positioned atop buildings, along highways, and in market squares. Even when devoid of advertisements, they continue to draw one's gaze. The sculpture-like metal frames and blank canvases remind of things that have come and gone. Even in the absence of advertising content, a billboard remains a medium of communication. But when empty of advertisement, what message does it convey? Janne Riikonen's book *Notes For Our Legacy* serves as a statement against the unsustainable culture of consumption and the values typically conveyed on billboards.

Thread bound book with no covers
96 pages
46 black and white photographs
Risograph printing
20 x 28,5 cm

First edition of 300 copies
ISBN 978-91-987606-9-9
Designed by Janne Riikonen
October 2023





PASACO, 1996

Luis Corzo

On the 18th of April, 1996, 6-year-old Luis Corzo was abducted together with his father Juan Corzo, Jr. from their home and held captive for thirty-three days by an organized crime group known as "Los Pasaco". In the early 90s, "Los Pasaco" were the most feared and notorious group of criminals in the country. During this captivity Juan Corzo, Jr was physically tortured to pressure the family into sending money for ransom. Eventually, Juan was released on the 30th day and told to gather more ransom money in order to have Luis released. Three days later, Luis was released in the small town of Chiquimulilla, Santa Rosa.

PASACO, 1996 is an investigative photography project that contains recuperated documents of the time, as well as new documentation of locations, people, and objects that took part in the act. The book initiates conversations surrounding the story; those of violence, corruption, capital punishment and criminal rehabilitation.

Foiled hardcover with a tipped in photograph

96 pages, 42 photographs

Offset printing

23 x 27.5 cm

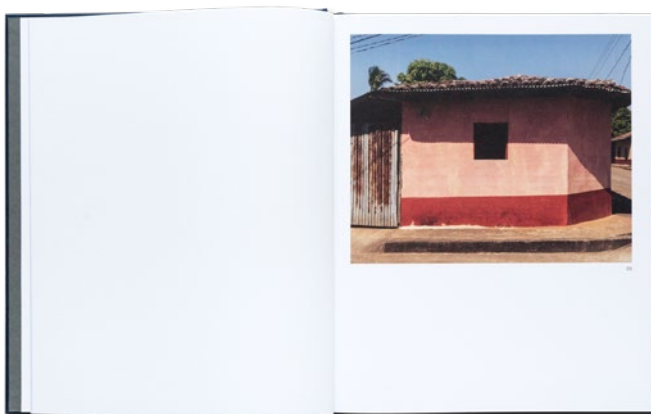
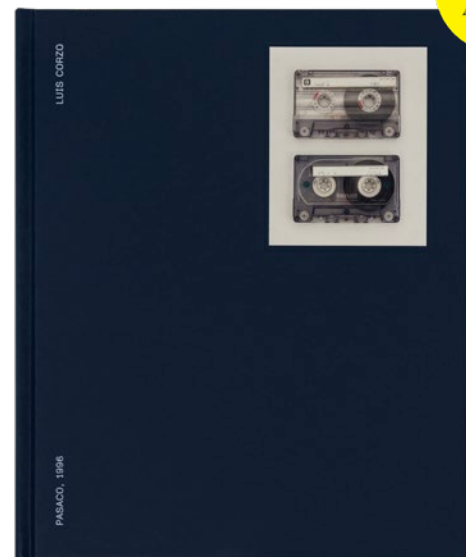
First edition of 700 copies

ISBN 978-91-987607-1-2

Design by Claudia Rubin

October 2023

Shortlisted for the Paris Photo - Aperture Firts Photobook Award 2023





GRAVITY

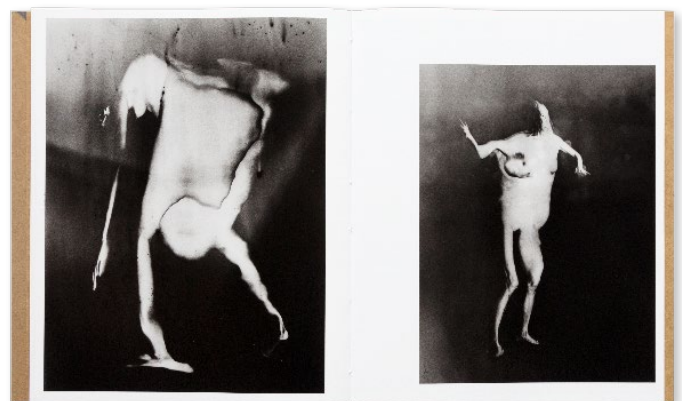
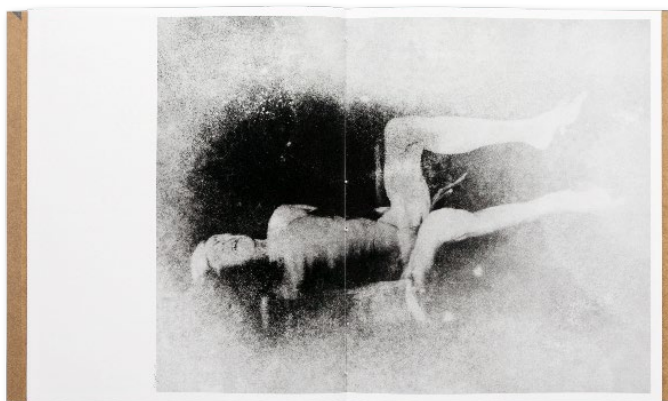
Aapo Huhta

Aapo Huhta's book Gravity presents a collection of black and white studio portraits of human figures and shapes combined with imagery of mummified remains from late 16th-century Sicily. In these gently surreal scenes, human bodies float, enveloped in grainy textures from chemical residues and light leaks. By photographing and rephotographing through transparent and reflective objects, Huhta transforms the figures into contorted human-like creatures. He also manipulates the interaction of film, developer, and overly expired photographic paper by hand and re-establishes the unpredictability into a process that is commonly sought to be controlled.

The catalyst for the work Gravity was a change in identity that happened after becoming a parent. The result is a subjective interpretation of the complexity and fragility of human life and an intuitive response toward the unknown.

Embossed double-folded softcover
Pamphlet stitch binding
56 pages
Monotone and tritone offset printing
22.5 x 27.5 cm

First edition of 500 copies
ISBN 978-91-987606-7-5
Designed by Heikki Kaski and Aapo Huhta
August 2023





EL RETRATO DE TU AUSENCIA

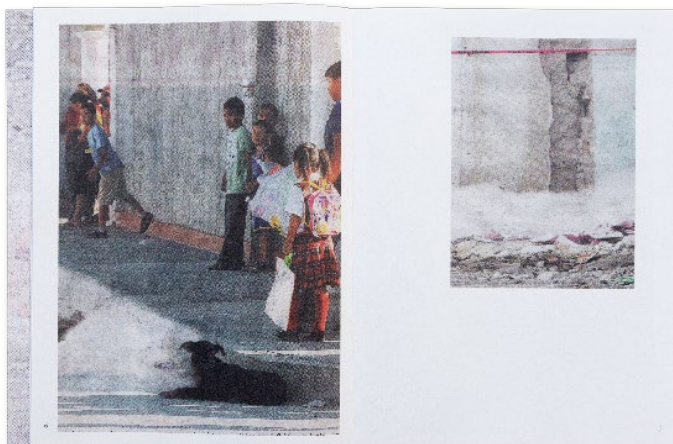
Alejandro "Luperca" Morales

During a period of six years Alejandro Morales collected more than 500 photographs depicting bodies published his local newspaper P.M. in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The time of extreme violence made Ciudad Juárez among the most violent cities in the world, marked by the large number of intentional homicides committed in its streets. The limits of what the press could publish were blurred as it was so common to find oneself in the middle of a shootout or come across an abandoned corpse. Morales removed all the corpses that he found in the photographs in the P.M. Newspaper by manually erasing them with a gum eraser.

Swiss bound softcover
Lenticular photographs mounted on covers
112 pages, 74 works
Offset printing
17 x 22,7 cm

First edition of 600 copies
ISBN 978-91-987606-5-1
Co-published with Los Sumergidos
Designed by Fernando Gallegos
May 2023

Shortlisted for the Paris Photo - Aperture Firts Photobook Award 2023





HULDA / LILLI

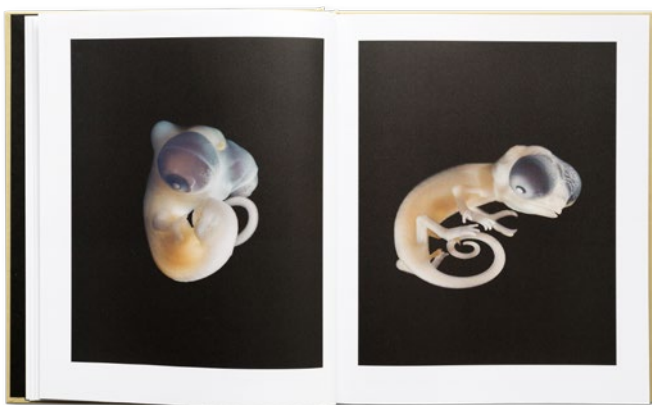
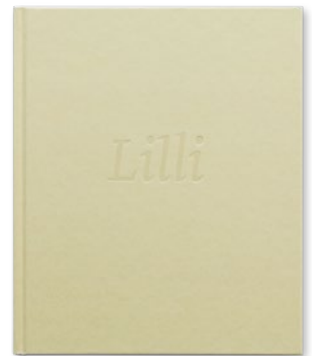
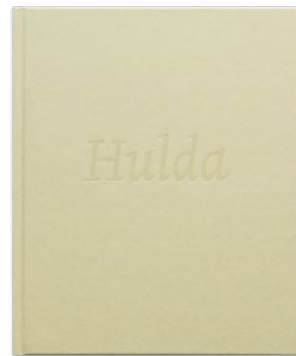
Maija Tammi

The book *Hulda / Lilli* examines empathy through storytelling. The work is an inventive human experiment, which aims to draw out an emotional reaction and encourages viewers to probe into the making of their feelings. The book can be read from both ends, or both beginnings, which offers two paths with different perspectives. One path depicts the story of a predator and the other of a prey. In the middle the paths and protagonists meet – who will you empathise with?

Hulda / Lilli was created in the context of the work *Empathy Machine* which will premiere at Tammi's solo exhibition at The Finnish Museum of Photography in March 2023.

Flip book with two beginnings
hardcover binding
96 pages with a foldout section in the middle
Offset printing
21 x 25,5 cm

First edition of 300 copies
ISBN 978-91-987606-6-8
Designed by Ville Tietäväinen and Maija Tammi
March 2023





THE SUN SETS INSIDE YOU

Erik Mowinckel

In 2017 the Norwegian photographer Erik Mowinckel was recovering from a prolonged period of mental illness. At the time the walks in Oslo, his home town, accompanied by his camera served as a kind of therapy for him. For Erik taking photographs became a way of relocating himself and played a crucial part in his process of recovery; The walks became a much needed routine and photography worked as a channel to express and deal with difficult emotions. The book *The Sun Sets Inside You* tells a deeply personal story of recovery through fragments of both darkness and brightness.

Hand bound booklet in board covers

80 pages

48 colour photographs

Digital printing on 120g paper

19,5 x 28 cm

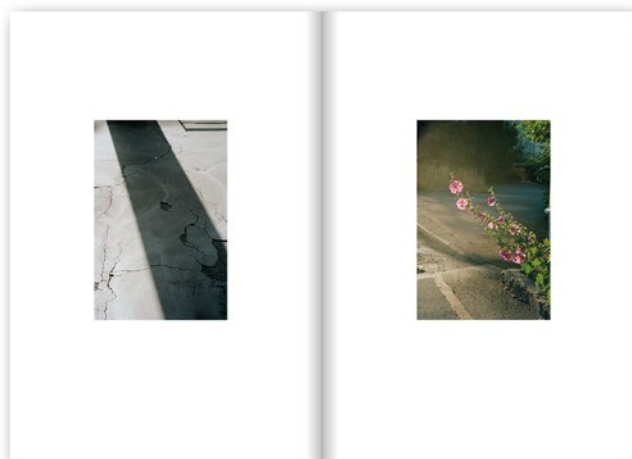
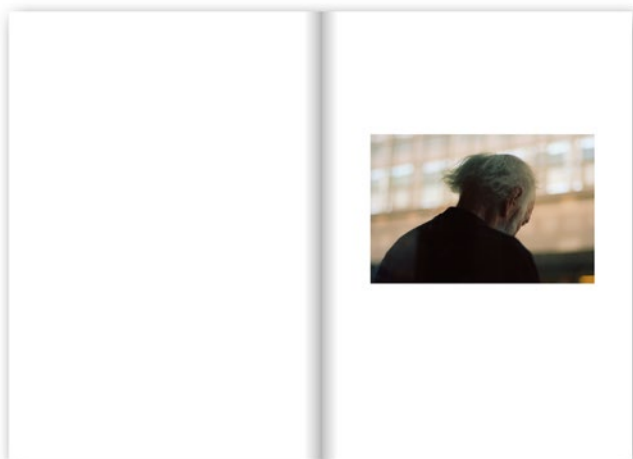
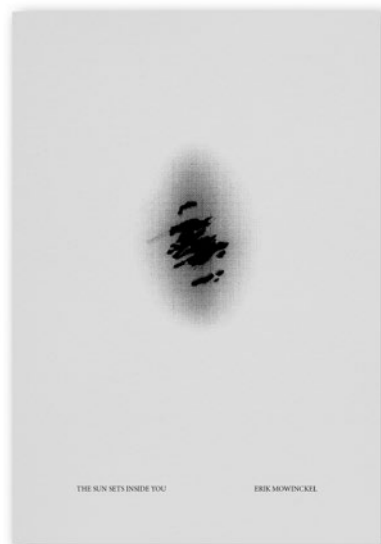
Limited edition of 100 copies, all signed and numbered by the artist

ISBN 978-91-987606-4-4

Design by Janne Riikonen

February 2023

SOLD OUT





BATTERED

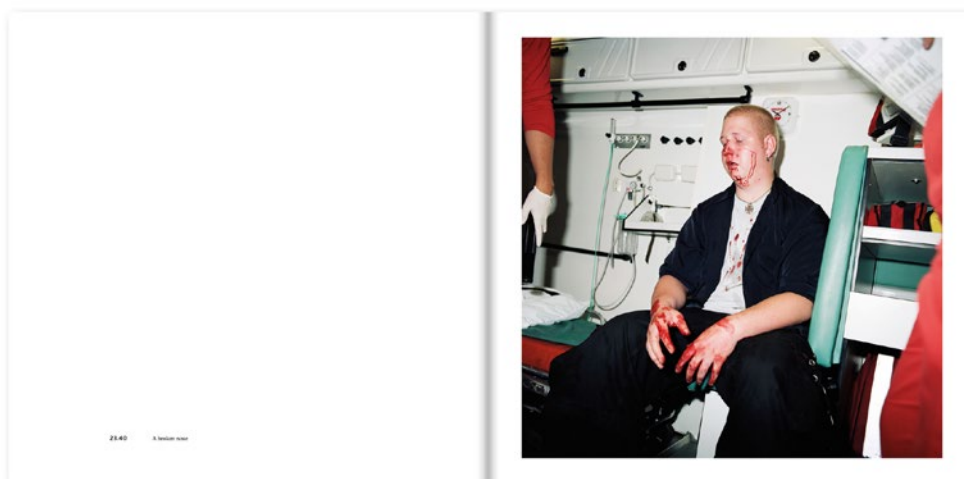
Harri Pälviranta

Assaults and street fights are everyday activities on weekend nights in Finland. People have a strong tendency to get rather intoxicated when partying and, once drunk, they are released from their inhibitions. Aggression turns into physical acts, to direct violence. There is a social awareness of this topic in Finland. The issue is recognized, and it is considered to be a severe social problem. But the discussion has mainly literal dimensions; it appears in news headlines, and it is discussed in seminars.

In the book *Battered* the Finnish Photographer Harri Pälviranta shows the real faces of street violence in Finland. In contrast to the stereotypic portrayals of male heroics and the worn-out attempts at shocking people, Pälviranta deals with the utmost banality inherent in violence.

Perfect bound hard cover with a tipped in photograph
64 pages
32 photographs
Offset printing
29,5 x 29 cm

First edition, 300 copies, SOLD OUT
Second printing, 400 copies, 11 / 2023
ISBN 978-91-987606-2-0
Design by Janne Riikonen
October 2022





WALL TOURIST

Harri Pälviranta

Wall Tourist focuses on the real barriers between countries built to obstruct unwanted access. Instead of traditional landscape and aftermath photography, the story is told through self portraiture. The protagonist is a conflict tourist, who uses his privileged position as a middle class Western white man to experience the places beyond his normal daily life. The motifs for Pälviranta's work lay in refugee crises in 2015-2016, when over 40 000 immigrants crossed the European borders daily causing chaos and even violence. Several countries reacted to this situation by building bigger and taller fences in order to prevent unwanted movement of people. By showing his position of privileged, middle class Western white man he raises questions about universal human rights

Swiss bound hardcover
100 pages
Offset printing
21 x 27 cm

39 photographs
Texts by Anna-Kaisa Rastenberger, Alexandra Athanasiadou and Harri Pälviranta
Design by Janne Riikonen

First edition of 300 copies
ISBN 978-91-987606-1-3
July 2022





MY MAN MITCH

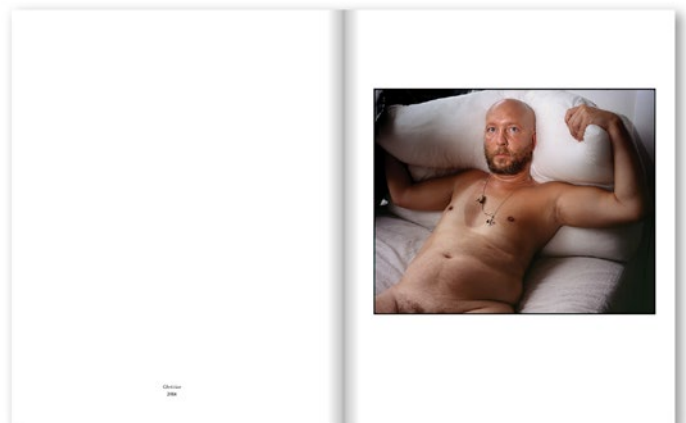
Ian Lewandowski

My Man Mitch is about the photographer's home state of Indiana, manhood, and finding and maintaining queer space. After moving to New York to pursue a degree and career as a fine artist, Lewandowski, raised in a working-class, conservative, Christian environment, started to analyze these origins through photographic imagery native to Indiana and his family. Simultaneously he was photographing fellow gay men in their New York City apartments. Lewandowski combines his own photography with appropriated material, primarily Indiana high school yearbook photographs, as a dialogue on community and belonging, and a way to elaborate and expand upon his relationship to manhood and gay identity.

Perfect bound softcover with flaps
80 pages
37 photographs and a text by Paul Legault
Offset printing
22 x 27,5 cm

A special edition of 20 signed and numbered copies include the book *My Man Mitch*, an original photographic print made by the artist, together housed in a screen printed box.

First edition of 400 copies
ISBN 978-91-984059-7-2
Designed by Janne Riikonen
June 2022





ANKOMMEN

Malte Uchtmann

Ankommen is a study of architectural infrastructure for state-provided accommodation for refugees in Germany. During the so called European migrant crisis in mid 2010's Germany got known for its 'welcome culture' towards refugees. Since 2015 millions of refugees have arrived to the country and the state has to react quickly trying to provide sufficient housing for the immigrants. In the fast paced urban planning process material and immaterial borders are created, making it challenging for the refugees to settle. By photographic documentation, aerial views and documents the book raises a questions about the architectures impairing effects for refugees integration to German society.

Swiss bound softcover with a strap closure

252 pages

Offset printing

19.5 x 25.5 cm

64 photographs, official documents and an index with aerial maps.

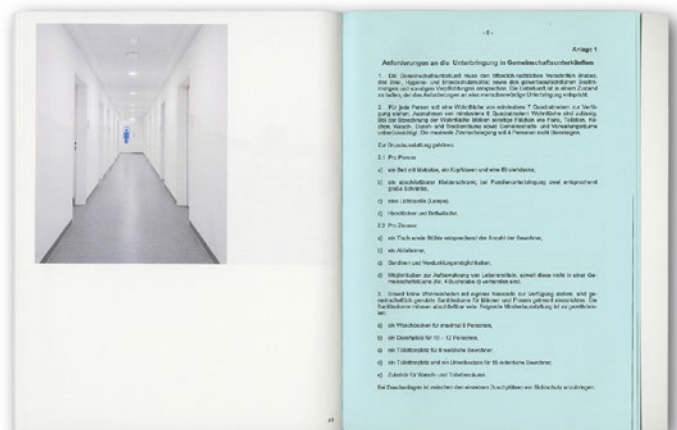
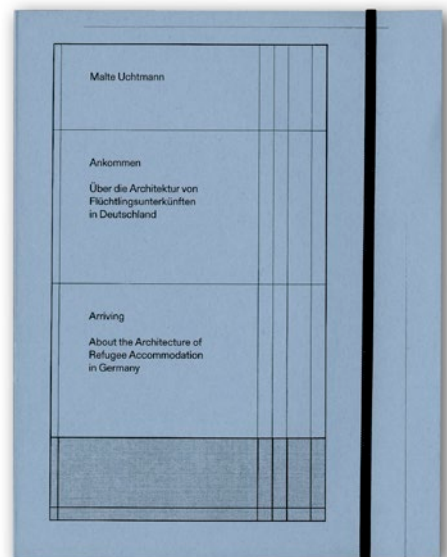
Text by Philipp Piechura

Design by Paul Sper and Malte Uchtmann

First edition of 500 copies

ISBN 978-91-984059-8-9

May 2022





IL MALOCCHIO

Andrea Simonato

According to old pagan beliefs Il Malocchio or 'the evil eye' is a curse causing bad luck and misfortune. In his debut book Il Malocchio Italian photographer Andrea Simonato depicts the quiet villages of his home region of Vicenza in the Northern Italy as upon this curse of unluckiness causing decay and abandonment. On his walks through sleeping villages and their empty buildings, dark woods and resting groves Simonato makes extraordinary findings in the seemingly common surroundings. The work echoes both longing and hope, creating a beautiful and poetic, yet mysterious ode to a place called home.

Perfect bound hot foiled hard cover with a patterned translucent dust jacket

80 pages

49 black and white photographs

Duotone offset printing

16 x 23 cm

First edition, 250 copies

ISBN 978-91-987606-0-6

Design by Janne Riikonen

April 2022

SOLD OUT





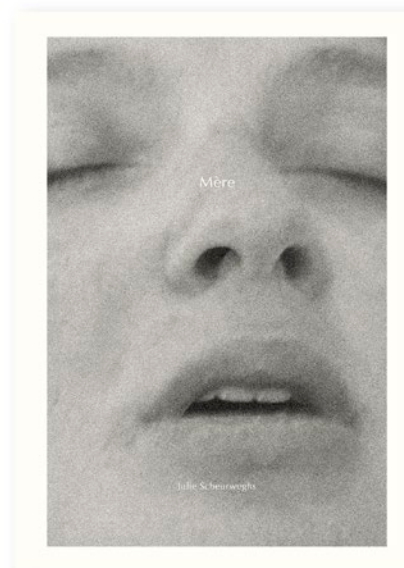
MÈRE

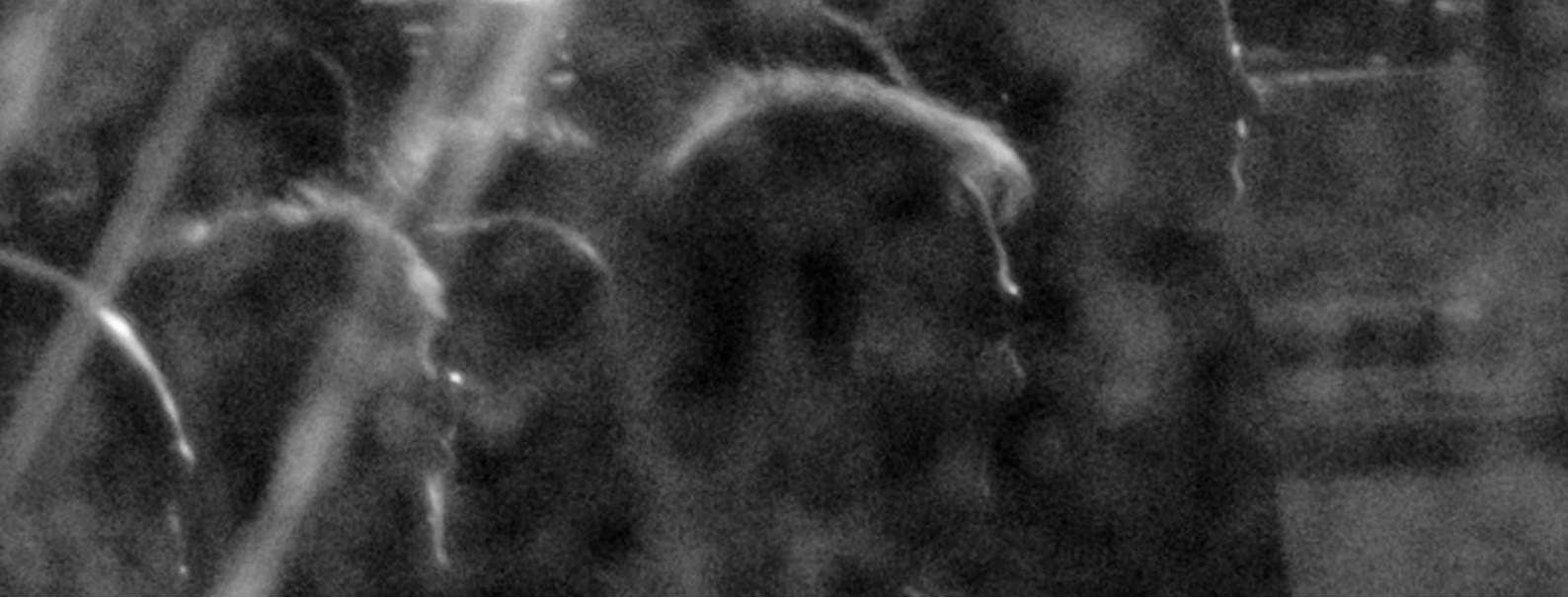
Julie Scheurweghs

In her debut book *Mère*, we see the artist Julie Scheurweghs in different stages of labour. Scheurweghs' natural home birth took 16 hours, and while being by her side, the whole process was closely documented by her partner. Later, while going through the photographs she noticed the details that accurately matched her recollections from the day. She claimed the photographs by cropping them to their bare essence, creating a new body of work showing the intensity of the experience. The skin-close, uncensored and heartfelt photographs of heavy contractions alternated with calm moments in between show us not only a baby being born, but the birth of a mother as well.

OTA bound paperback
148 pages
142 black and white photographs
Digital printing
16 x 22 cm

First printing, 200 copies, SOLD OUT
Second printing, 200 copies (01/2022)
ISBN 978-91-984059-9-6
Design by Janne Riikonen
September 2021





TRANSCENDENCE

Mikko Kerttula

In his debut book *Transcendence* Mikko Kerttula observes the everyday events at a bus terminal of a small Swedish city of Sundsvall. By using reflections, bouncing harsh light and stains in glass surfaces Kerttula creates abstract and mirage-like portraits. Whether passers-by in movement or waiters standing still, the people are portrayed almost as apparitions, captured in midst of transformation. The work subtly turns the mundane into something extraordinary, mysterious and even unearthly.

Staple-bound book in a loose, screen printed board covers

64 pages

38 black and white photographs

80g recycled paper

Digital printing

22,5 x 28 cm

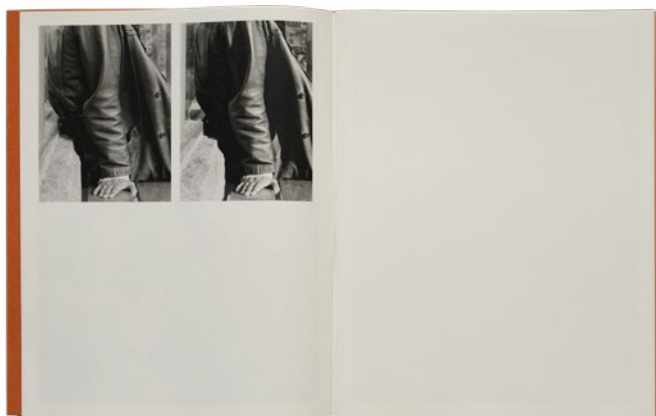
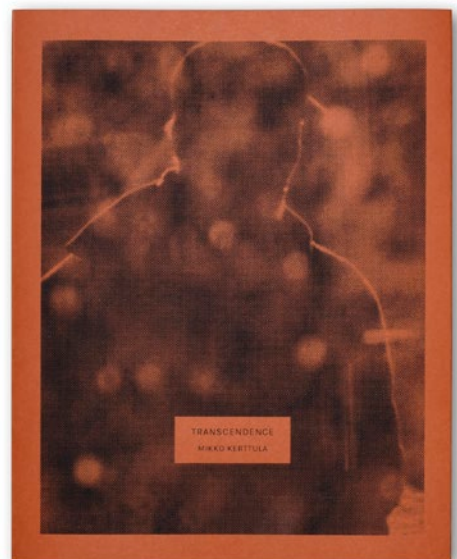
Limited edition of 100 copies, all signed and numbered.

ISBN 978-91-984059-6-5

Design by Janne Riikonen

July 2021

SOLD OUT





BLUEPRINT 2017-20

Norman Behrendt

In a historic EU referendum a small majority of UK citizens voted for Britain's 'exit' from the European Union, commonly known as Brexit. *Blueprint 2017-20* explores how the mass media has influenced political debates and democratic processes during the process of Brexit. Norman Behrendt's photographs of Brexit-related video material examine what sort of imagery is used to influence people by stirring up deep-seated attitudes around national pride, immigration and lack of control. The blue color of the cyanotypes reflects the invisible influence of the European Union on the United Kingdom.

OTA bound paperback with coloured edges

304 pages

Duotone offset printing

17 x 25,5 cm

212 photographs, an essay by London-based artist, critic and art historian Lucy Soutter and an appendix featuring crucial texts and speeches about Brexit and EU-UK relations.

First edition of 800 copies

ISBN 978-91-984059-4-1

Design by Janne Riikonen and Norman Behrendt

May 2021





ORANGE STREET

Johannes Frandsen

In Beijing, the capital of China, thousands of cleaning workers look after the megacity of over 21 million inhabitants. Each of the workers clean the same street seven days a week, twelve hours a day. Although expected to be as inconspicuous as possible, the cleaning workers are an inseparable part of the Beijing cityscape. They are seemingly everywhere and truly indispensable, yet nobody appears to care about their predicament, as if they are tools. With Johannes Frandsen's direct and close portraits *Orange Street* presents the people in the working clothes, not only their well known orange outfits.

Perfect bound hard cover with a tipped in photograph

80 pages

41 photographs

Offset printing

22,5 x 26 cm

a text by Chinese writer and editor Chilly Chin in Chinese, English and Swedish.

A special edition of 25 copies include an unique c-print produced, signed and numbered by Johannes Frandsen.

First edition of 500 copies

ISBN 978-91-984059-3-4

Design by Janne Riikonen

December 2021

SOLD OUT





GOLDEN DAYS

Max Sjödin

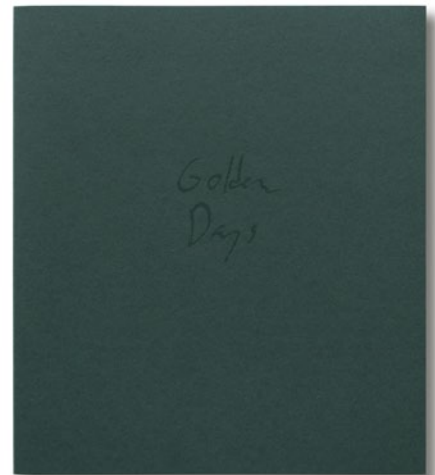
Golden Days shares insight into the cruise ship trips on the Baltic Sea, where the what-happens-in-Vegas-mentality is common practice. For 24 hours the passengers leave their everyday commitments and worries behind before returning back to the same harbour they departed from. With close portraits, crowded dance floors and dated interiors, *Golden Days* is not only a book about cruise trips, but also about longing, intimacy and the lack thereof.

Screen printed board covers
Hand bound
48 pages
22 photographs
Digital printing
21 x 24 cm

All books are signed and numbered by Max Sjödin and come with a fine art print placed inside the front cover flap.

Limited edition of 50 copies
ISBN 978-91-984059-2-7
Design by Janne Riikonen
September 2020

SOLD OUT





PERSONALIA

Janne Riikonen

Personalia is a visual study of graffiti culture in Sweden. The book discusses graffiti by portraying graffiti writers and by depicting their lifestyle. Thousands of graffiti writers devote their lives to the peculiar and controversial form of art; by their actions they gain respect and fame among their own rather small community, whereas are considered merely a nuisance by the general public. While graffiti often is seen as a youth culture and most graffiti writers start painting in their teenage years, the addiction grows deep roots that grip many for a lifetime. Showcasing the many different walks of life encompassed by practitioners, Riikonen looks past the simplistic notions held by the general public of what graffiti culture is and who identifies with it.

Perfect bound hardcover in a screen-printed slipcase

Stamp numbered

64 pages

42 photographs

Offset printing

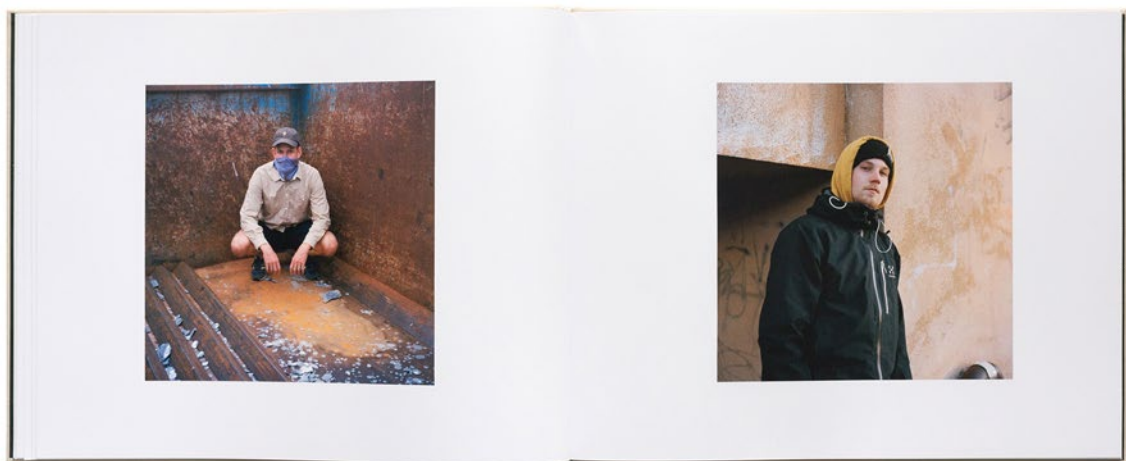
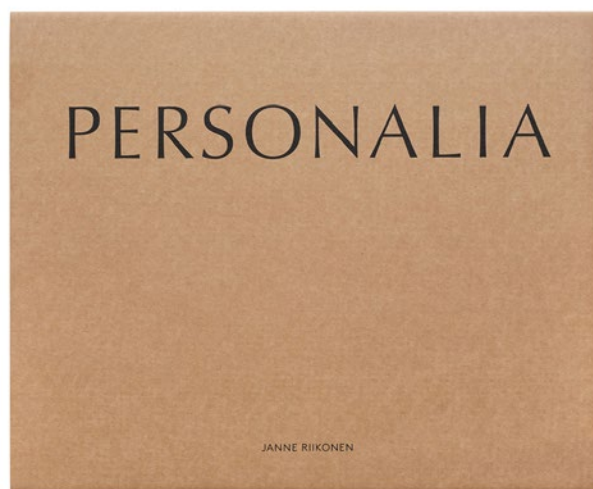
30 x 24,5 cm

First edition of 800 copies

ISBN 978-91-984059-1-0

Design by Josef Ruona and Justin Boyesen

September 2019





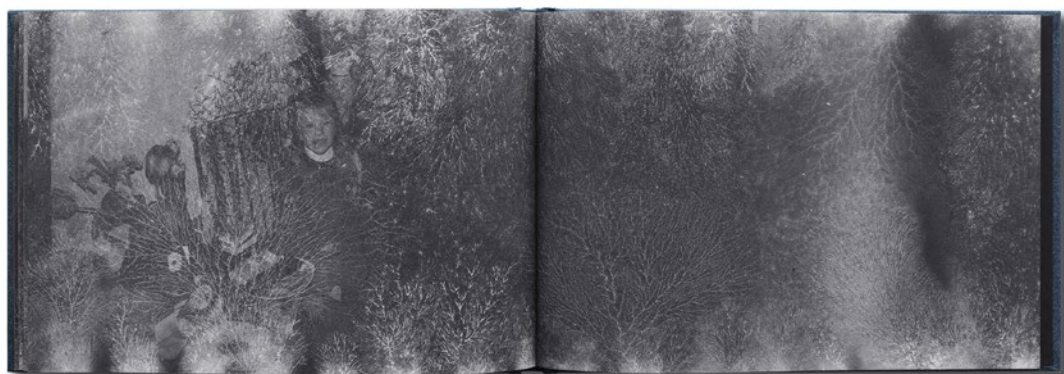
ROOTS

Eva Saukane

Through the faded fractions of memories, the book *Roots* tells the family story of the artist, Eva Saukane. The book consists of an unedited roll of film, which Saukane discovered inside her grandfather's camera. Having stood untouched for about 20 years, fungi had grown into the film, blurring the images similarly as time does to our recalled memories. When Saukane found the camera, the film inside had two exposures left to be taken. Unknowingly completing her grandfathers work, Eva Saukane took the remaining shots and brought the film to be developed. It was only then she discovered the mysterious effect, and the ambiguous story of the family began to unravel.

Hardcover
Glue binding with fore-edge fold
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SNEAK PEEK TO
FORTHCOMING BOOKS

Eliot Nasrallah
summer 2024



Andrea Simonato
summer 2024





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ABOUT

Kult Books is an independent publishing project run by Janne Riikonen in Stockholm, Sweden. Kult Books publishes photography books and other lens based visual arts in monographs and artists' books. Kult embraces personal artistic approach and visual language. The physical form of the books are of high importance to Kult and every project is designed in detail together with the artist to support the concept of the work.

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