

2. FIRST TRIP TO BOLOGNA 1978 / LAST TRIP TO VENICE 1985 SEIICHI FURUYA



Seichi Furuya avoided looking again at the three video recordings of his wife Christine Gössler until Covid-19 forced a lockdown in March of 2020. Nor did he recall the trip to Bologna in 1978 even after watching the footage. He only remembers that he made the decision to marry Christine on this trip together weeks after they met in Graz.

It is this footage that by his estimation probably only amounts to 20 minutes, which led to the publication of *First Trip to Bologna 1978 / Last Trip to Venice 1985*, extracted frame by frame from super 8 film rolls he found in his attic in 2018. This follows *Face To Face*, published in 2020, which was the final act in his five book series *Mémoires* chronicling their life together.

Whereas *Face To Face* presented photographs taken by Furuya and Gössler as juxtaposed pairs of each other taken in the same instance, this photobook is united and divided by two trips. Their first journey to Bologna in 1978, full of young love, hope and optimism, printed on black paper, butts

against their second more melancholic trip to Venice, before Christine committed suicide in 1985, literally reversed and printed on white paper. Like a snake eating its own tale, there is no beginning or end, just the eternal cycle of life and death.

Crushingly beautiful, poetic, even cinematic. This new series together with a newly edited version of *Last Trip to Venice 1985*, first self-published in 2002, make this book another beautifully produced Furuya and Chose Commune title, adding another dimension not just to his body of work but photobooks as well.

First Trip to Bologna 1978 /
Last Trip to Venice 1985
Seichi Furuya
Chose Commune, March 2022
16.5 cm x 24.4cm
192 pages
Softcover otabind
£40

