



LEICA FOTOGRAFIE INTERNATIONAL

ENGLISH EDITION

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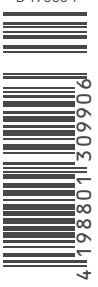
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LISA MCCORD
ROTAN SWITCH



It was 1978 when a then 21-year-old Lisa McCord began documenting life on her grandparents' cotton farm in the rural community of Rotan, in the Arkansas Delta. Her book receives its name from the town's central landmark: the Rotan Switch, where farm-

ers used to load their cotton bales onto trains. Even though it has remained unused for years, it symbolises the overlap between agricultural industry, racism and injustice. Herself the granddaughter of white farmers, the American photographer grapples with the town's social and economic structures, and her part in observing a predominantly black population. As she develops close connections to the inhabitants of Rotan, she uncovers structural racism, forcing her to come to terms with her own identity. "After forty years, I've come to realize all the photographs I took here are explorations of home, an idea that remains firmly rooted in the Arkansas land and people," McCord says. "I've also come to realize that the place I call home is not perfect."

Exhibited at the Leica Gallery Los Angeles in 2023, as well as elsewhere, this first monograph is the result of the photographer's exiting, long-term project. Enhanced by snapshots of family and memorabilia from over 44 years, the work is a powerful and lively reflection on the passage of time, humanity, memory, history and home. It is a personal examination of life, which, when compounded, becomes a universal story about origins and identity.

204 pages, 28 colour and 55 black and white images, 23 × 29.9 cm, English, Kehrer

JASON GARDNER
WE THE SPIRITS

Colourful, fantastic, bizarre: the party season wears many costumes. Born in 1972, the American photographer captures carnival events in all their diversity of local customs. Travelling through fifteen countries – mostly European but also Guinea-Bissau and Trinidad –, he has put together a powerful book of portraits.

232 pages, 127 colour images, 22 × 26.5 cm, English, Gost



CIRO BATTILORO
SILENCE IS A GIFT

This book is a love letter to his neighbours. The Naples-based Italian photographer (born 1978) used his Leica M6 to capture the challenging conditions in Rione Sanità, Santa Lucia and Torre del Greco. The series is comprised of emphatic, quiet images dealing in love, loneliness, life, death, pain and joy.

92 pages, 52 b/w images, 22.5 × 25 cm, Fr/En/It, Chose Commune



ERNEST COLE
THE TRUE AMERICA

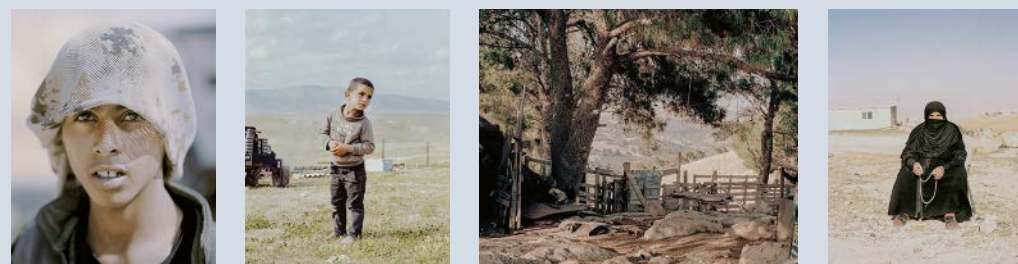
Long considered lost, the publication of these images is quite a sensation. The book presents 260 previously unpublished works by the South African photographer (1940–1990), all taken in the US in the late sixties and early seventies. In 1967 his photo book, *House of Bondage*, garnered international acclaim, for exposing the daily realities of Apartheid. It also forced him to leave his home, being judged an "undesirable person". He moved on to capture daily life in Harlem and Manhattan, New York,



then crossed the US in 1968. Very few images of that experience, nestled between hope, freedom, racism and injustice, were ever published during his lifetime. In 2017 the lost negatives resurfaced in a Swedish safe deposit box!

314 pages, 260 black and white and colour images, 22.9 × 33.5 cm, English, Aperture

Photos: © Lisa McCord, 1979; © Jason Gardner, 2015–2021; © 2023 Ernest Cole Family Trust; © Petra Bašňáková



PETRA BAŠŇÁKOVÁ
BORN OF SAND AND SUN

Eye to eye: the young girl has been taking care of this dove since it hatched, providing it safety and protection: essentials the Bedouin themselves lack. As of October 2019, the Slovakian photographer (born 1997) spent three years living with and documenting Palestinian Bedouin.

As semi-nomadic people, they have occupied the Judean desert between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea for thousands of years. After the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, a large part of their home was tied into the West Bank. Since then, their daily existence has been under increasing threat; their culture characterised by a gradual loss of identity.

This book titled *Born of Sand and Sun* presents two narrative threads: the Bedouin life path, and Bašňáková's own experience. Current Israeli-Palestinian conflicts are avoided, as she seeks to find universal visual metaphors through the lives and disappearance of the Bedouin. "The desert inhabitants revealed the secret of inner peace to me in my new home, where the sun shines more penetratingly and the silence is many times quieter."

Bašňáková's images reflect that peace. Strong portraits and a unique palette – as in the example of the girl with the dove –, allow the colours of the desert landscape to shine through in her fabric patterns and bird feathers.

104 pages, 63 colour images, 23 × 30 cm, English, Dewi Lewis