

EXPERIMENTS IN CONDENSED MEMORIES

IDRIS KHAN – THE LAYERED INTERIOR WORLD OF AN ARTIST

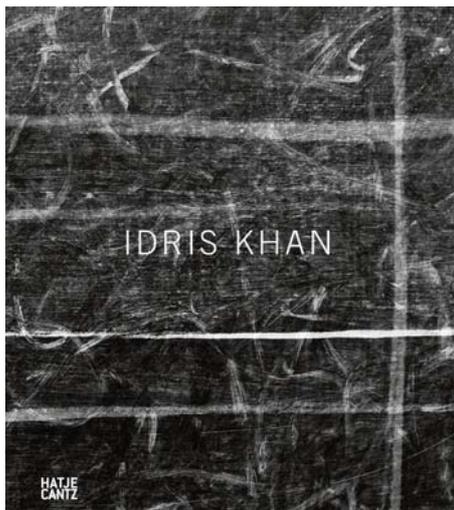
If all of time were to be reduced to a single moment, the world might look like one of Idris Khan's works of art. Born in Birmingham, England, in 1978, the artist is currently rising rapidly in the art world. His work layers diverse media so that colors and shapes are condensed to the point of abstraction. Khan's first extensive monograph, *Idris Khan – A World Within*, features the British artist's best-known works to date.

Berlin April 19, 2017—Idris Khan's work method involves a continual process of creating and discarding, revealing and concealing. The London-based artist works with photography, sculpture, installation, painting, and film. Thus, for example, he has layered every page from the Koran, the musical scores of every Beethoven sonata, and every postcard by Joseph Mallord William Turner from the Tate Britain on top of each other. In this process he has inquired into ideas linked to time, memory, creativity, and spirituality.

As a British citizen of Pakistani ancestry Khan grew up a Muslim. He attended local mosques, recited Arabic poetry, and studied the Koran. These influences are reflected to this day in his works of art. Time-robbing processes and repetitions thread their way through his entire oeuvre. For instance, when photographing the Koran for his piece *every... Page of the Holy Quran*, each one of the 1953 pages had to be handled with the greatest of care, so that it took more than two months to complete this work.

The earliest piece in the book is *White Court (2001)*. To take this photograph of the wall of a squash court, Khan employed a large-format camera and concentrated on the marks left behind on the wall by rackets and balls. The picture was produced when Khan was still a student in Derby, and it is evidence of his early fascination for the inherent relationship between photography and painting. His most recent works, on the other hand, are paintings, such as *The State of the Viewer (2016)*, made by repeatedly stamping words onto hanging plates of glass. Phrases from key texts and the artist's own poems are printed over and over, so that every clue about the contents become increasingly obscure. These pictures arose out of the profound grief Khan experienced in the year that his mother died and his child was stillborn.

Now, the comprehensive monograph *Idris Khan – A World Within* presents the British artist's most significant works to date, while examining their meditative, monumental characteristics. The book focuses on predominant themes and influences such as classical music, art history, literature, philosophy, and religion.



**IDRIS KHAN
A WORLD WITHIN**

Ed. The New Art Gallery Walsall, text(s) by Oliver Basciano, Idris Khan, Thomas Marks, Deborah Robinson, Stephen Snoddy, graphic design by Herman Lelie

English
2017. 304 pp., 134 ills.
hardcover
25.00 x 29.00 cm
ISBN 978-3-7757-4309-9

48,00 EUR [available in the US by June 2017]

ABOUT HATJE CANTZ

Hatje Cantz is a groundbreaking international publishing company specializing in art, architecture, and photography. Since 1945 Hatje Cantz has been using its profound expertise and enthusiasm for craftsmanship to produce and publish books of the highest quality. We currently release around two hundred new titles annually.

Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION GERD HATJE as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

www.hatjecantz.de
www.editiongerdhatje.com

PRESS CONTACT

Sara Buschmann
Head of Press Department
s.buschmann@hatjecantz.de
Tel. +49 30 3464678-08

Jennifer Berndt
Junior PR-Manager
presse@hatjecantz.de
Tel. +49 30 3464678-23

**HATJE
CANTZ**