

BRANCHING OUT

MORE WOMEN IN TREES: HATJE CANTZ PUBLISHES A SEQUEL TO THE CHARMING BEST SELLER

With *More Women in Trees*, September sees the publication of the second volume of this successful little book, which conquered the international book market in 2016 with tongue firmly in cheek and charmed the press. The sequel is in no way inferior to its predecessor: the unique collection of historical amateur photographs, assembled and curated by the artist Jochen Raiß, feature a phenomenon that is presented in both a humorous and loving manner: young women posing in trees.

Berlin, August 18, 2017 — “Any way you look at it, *Women in Trees* is a damned good title for a photo book where what you see is namely that: women in trees,” writes the journalist Johanna Adorján.

It all started with a coincidence. The editor, Jochen Raiß (47), who practices his profession of photo editor so passionately that he even spends most of his free time hunting for good pictures, happened to find a picture of a woman in a tree twenty-five years ago at a flea market in Frankfurt am Main. It put him in a good mood right away. He bought it, used it for a while as a bookmark, and felt cheerful every time he saw it: “The woman in it just looked so happy.” Then, during another one of his forays through junk shops and flea markets, he spotted another picture of a woman in a tree. And then another one. Ever since, he has looked deliberately for this motif whenever he finds boxes full of old, discarded photographs. In the meanwhile his collection of women in trees, which he keeps in old wooden crates, numbers 140.

Where and how most of these black-and-white photographs were taken remains unknown. Every once in a while a year is handwritten on the reverse, sometimes along with a first name, but nothing else hints at the identity of the women depicted. “I love pictures that aren’t perfect, that I know nothing about. Then stories immediately being developing in my mind,” says Raiß.

In what is now the second volume, *More Women in Trees*, women pose athletically in bathing suits, or as if they are riding, wearing cowboy hats; sometimes they are sipping a bottle of beer, or are casually enthroned overlooking the sea—each photograph has its own look and story awaiting discovery. Raiß has already gone through many different kinds of possible interpretations: “For me, the women happen to be taking a Sunday walk with their partners,” he explains. “They are well dressed, look happy, and some of them seem to be really in love. These are young people who went off with a camera, clowned around, and captured their happiness in a snapshot.” Just like the pictures we celebrate by the millions on Facebook, Instagram, et cetera. Raiß can only guess at why so few men seem to climb trees: “Most of the pictures are from the early days of amateur photography, and at the time, men clung to the camera.”

Around 2300 historical amateur photographs with unusual visual content make up Jochen Raiß’s entire collection. With his collections the artist has found a way to capture the beautiful and the ephemeral, and to breathe new life into moments long past.



MORE WOMEN IN TREES

Ed. Jochen Raiß, graphic design by Gabriele Sabolewski

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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.

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