

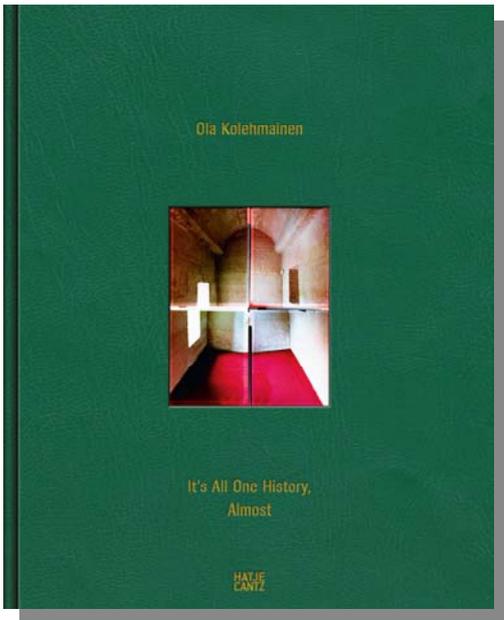
OLA KOLEHMAINEN**A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH SACRED BUILDINGS**

Ola Kolehmainen's (*1964, Helsinki) works are visual journeys to space, time, and light. A graduate of the Helsinki University of Art and Design, and one of the most successful representatives of the first generation of the Helsinki School, Kolehmainen became famous for his method of reducing façades to minimalist details. In his new series, the Finnish photographer, who has been based in Berlin since 2005, focuses masterfully on the space and light in the places where faith is practiced in. Inspired by his exploration of Islamic architecture and mosques in Istanbul, he continued portraying synagogues, mosques, churches, and cathedrals throughout Europe. Kolehmainen's work here is more narrative. It draws attention to the commonalities and shared histories of the religious spaces, underlining the universal nature of culture or religion.

Berlin, December 7, 2017 – In recent years Kolehmainen has turned more toward the depiction of sacred architecture and adjusted the highly detailed shot in favor of an integrated perspective. Here, he is particularly interested in the relationship of light, space, and time. From 2010 to 2014 the artist visited fifteen European cities to examine the architecture of three religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. His photographs reflect what unites these diverse interiors and exteriors over a time span of more than fifteen hundred years: the sublimity of religious architecture.

In his photographs Kolehmainen places the sacred buildings in relationship to their timelessness and finds that light is the link that connects form, function, and beauty. Light functions as a symbol of spiritual presence, as well as a constant that describes how the historical buildings seem to stand still in time, despite shifting light and seasonal conditions. Hatje Cantz's publication of *It's All One History, Almost* is a comprehensive summary of this phase of Kolehmainen's work. The foreword contains a fictional narrative, supposedly by the monk Polycarp. He imagines a discussion involving Leon Battista Alberti, early Renaissance humanist and author, the Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan, and the modern architect Louis I. Kahn about theoretical concepts of aesthetics, as well as the form and function of architecture.

Three levels that correspond in Kolehmainen's works, in terms of content and form. Using an elaborate process of double exposures, the artist captures the essence of these luminous structures, creating a translation of the universal sacred aspect intrinsic to these buildings. *It's All One History, Almost* accompanies Kolehmainen's journey in fifty color photographs, from the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, to St. Peter's in Rome, to the cathedral in Cologne.



OLA KOLEHMAINEN

IT'S ALL ONE HISTORY, ALMOST

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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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