

## GENTRIFICATION KREUZBERG NIGHTS

Between 2010 and 2016 Matthias Steinkraus documented the iconic apartment complex called the Kreuzberg Center, located at the Kottbusser Tor in Berlin, and the infamous 24-hour-bar, the Rote Rose (Red Rose). In Steinkraus's photographs, the inhabitants of the area and its development are exemplary of the way that an old milieu is being pushed out of the inner city. Generally working at night, the artist directly captured his surroundings: architecture, faces, the ambience of the city. Now, Steinkraus's first monograph, *Rote Rose*, presents the series, condensed into a stand-alone artist's book.

Berlin, May 16, 2018 — What kinds of social conditions and structures make it possible to see an urban space? And how can this complexity be translated into photography? Matthias Steinkraus examines the influence of urban structures on local communities. In his long-term study of the Kottbusser Tor, the cultural epicenter of Kreuzberg in Berlin, he localizes identities and documents the residents of the Center Kreuzberg apartment block, as well as regulars at the infamous 24-hour-bar, the Rote Rose.

*Rote Rose* is a work of anthropological photography that captures and documents the particulars of life in the big city. Steinkraus uses both analogue and digital photography, juxtaposing the two diverse technologies to address the displacement of an analogue time period through a mechanical recording process. Dusty bottles of spirits, wilting houseplants, bar patrons napping in fur coats, or views of the famous façades of post-war architecture in Kreuzberg: for seven years the artist played the role of the observer and resident, confronting events in this cultural melting pot.

“The social milieu I've photographed is becoming increasingly invisible. This can be traced back mainly to a neo-liberal system. Anyone neglecting to update themselves according to the usual standards is tossed out,” says Steinkraus.

*Rote Rose* is about the transformation of a small Berlin neighborhood. The project reflects upon gentrification and social displacement in European cities, drawing parallels to urban environments on a global level. Both intimate and inviting, Steinkraus's photographs portray the experiences of the people he met. According to Steinkraus, the corner bar functions as a shelter, where the “old” Kreuzberg can be seen, amid a utopia created by urban planning. *Rote Rose* depicts a neighborhood altering over the course of time, as if it were happening in fast-forward, and considering the changing technological framework, the book can be considered a powerful contributor of new ideas to the genre of photography.

The book launch will be held on May 24 at 8 p.m. at Bar Babette in Berlin. There will be an artist's talk featuring the artist Matthias Steinkraus and the arts editor of the German newspaper taz. Brigitte Werneburg.



**MATTHIAS STEINKRAUS**  
**ROTE ROSE**

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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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