

## THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE SWIMMING POOL THE SWIMMING POOL IN PHOTOGRAPHY

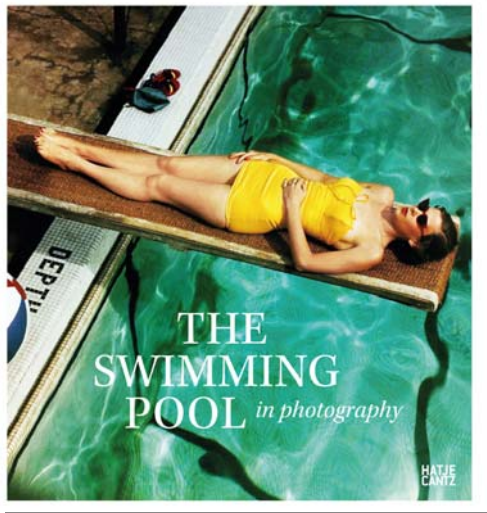
**Water is life, and the swimming pool is a piece of cultural history. For more than five thousand years people have been drawn to artificially enclosed, cool H<sub>2</sub>O. *The Swimming Pool in Photography* is dedicated to the last century's with bathing culture and life on the pool deck.**

Berlin, May 22, 2018 – Nearly every child loves a swimming pool. No hotel without an artificial basin, no summer vacation without a dip in refreshing water. Yet, the swimming pool is so much more than just a pool full of cool water. It is a mythological place, a place for stories and sports, the source of the carefree afternoon. It came to embody luxury and sophistication, and has been a setting for films, an architectural object, and a study in design.

“The swimming pool has been at different times and places suburban, exotic, utterly private, boisterously public, a threat or a blessing. It is, quite obviously, capable of every kind of symbolism from the crude assertion of financial status to an almost mystical fluidity of meanings that neatly complements the great puddle of chlorinated water that it holds.”

Thus writes the cultural studies professor Francis Hodgson in the foreword to *The Swimming Pool in Photography*, underscoring the role of the swimming pool as a showplace for variety. In more than two hundred color and black-and-white photographs, this illustrated volume presents a comprehensive, varied piece of cultural history, while recording it at the same time. From the Art Nouveau-style bathing houses at the turn of the last century, to the history behind the design of American pools in the 1950s, to the basins that were repurposed as skate parks in California in the 1970s, readers can enjoy immersing themselves in the destinations we long for on hot days.

Featuring works by Henri Cartier-Bresson, Gigi Cifali, Stuart Franklin, Harry Gruyaert, Emma Hartvig, Jacques Henri Lartigue, Joel Meyerowitz, Martin Parr, Paolo Pellegrin, Mack Sennett, Alec Soth, Larry Sultan, Alex Webb, and others.



## THE SWIMMING POOL IN PHOTOGRAPHY

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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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