

JEAN-LUC MYLAYNE**WHAT WE SEE, SEES US – AUTUMN IN PARADISE**

Jean-Luc Mylayne has spent his life traveling the world, photographing birds in their natural habitats, in a process that demands an enormous amount of time. Now, the Fondation Vincent van Gogh in Arles presents an ensemble of thirty-nine works of art, as radical as they are poetic, in this book of photographs published by Hatje Cantz.

Berlin, January 10, 2019 – From the moment he took his first photo in 1976, Jean-Luc Mylayne's (*1946) work has centered exclusively on his encounters with songbirds. From the rural south of France to the plains of the southwestern United States, the artist has observed sparrows, thrushes, and wrens, sometimes spending weeks and months searching for the right compositions to photograph. Images of unusually profound ease are the result.

Mylayne has an enduring interest in philosophical questions that confront the concept of existence and the experience of time. With his activities as a philosopher and poet as his starting point, the artist pursues investigations into the questions revolving around the human gaze. Mylayne begins his task like a naturalist: this includes biding his time until the birds become used to a new situation, and keeping an alert eye out for a long period of time, which can last several months. The artist makes sure that the birds have complete autonomy, meaning that the anthropocentric gaze gives way to mutual observation.

Unlike wildlife photography, which often seeks spectacular images, Mylayne's goal is to produce a seemingly casual picture that shows the moment in which the shot is taken as part of a time continuum. Despite the extreme thematic focus, the birds are often not the classic protagonists of the pictures. Instead, they are either off-center, or are only partially captured in the frame; they can be blurry, or else seem to have just departed the scene entirely. This gives the photos the quality of film stills, which evokes in viewers the sense that they are seeing individual pictures from a film sequence or some other continuous visual series. "When I see a bird, then I always see the tree in which it sits, which is near a house. I always see the whole ensemble," says Mylayne, describing this special form of perception.

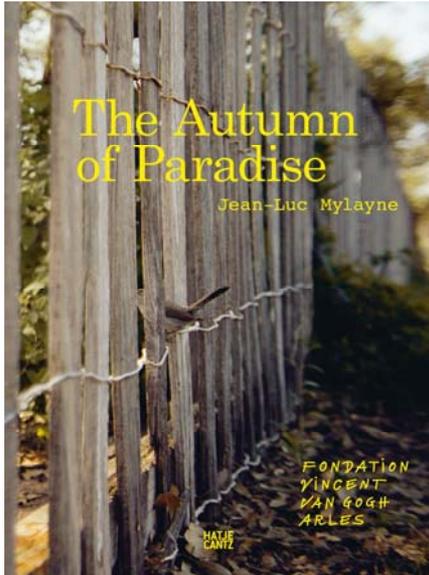
Accompanied by philosophical and autobiographical essays by Bice Curiger, Maja Hoffmann, Jacqueline Burckhardt, Christie Davis, and Leo Lencsés, as well as a poem by Jean-Luc Mylayne, the photo book is divided into nine chapters.

Exhibition:

November 17, 2018 – February 10, 2019, Fondation Vincent van Gogh, Arles

May 18 – August 11, 2019, Aargauer KunsthauS, Aarau

March 6 – May 10, 2020, Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover



JEAN-LUC MYLAYNE
THE AUTUMN OF PARADISE

Ed. Bice Curiger, introduction by Maja Hoffmann, texts by Jean-Luc Mylayne, Jacqueline Burckhardt, Christie Davis, Leo Lencsés, graphic design by Florence Inoue / Droit de regard

German, English
2018. 128 pp., 100 ills.
softcover with dust jacket
24.00 x 32.00 cm
ISBN 978-3-7757-4523-9
30,00€

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

Jennifer Berndt
Head of Press Department
presse@hatjecantz.de
Tel. +49 30 3464678-23

**HATJE
CANTZ**