

RWANDA'S CHILDREN BETWEEN TRAUMA AND HOPE

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda takes place in April 2019. The ensuing trauma is still deep, dividing Rwandan society. Nearly a million people were victims of the genocide in 1994, and around 250,000 women were raped. Today, victims and perpetrators live next door to each other. For *Rwandan Daughters*, Olaf Heine has created portraits of these women and the children who were products of these crimes.

Berlin, March 26, 2019 — In his moving images, the photographer Olaf Heine (*1968) has portrayed mothers and daughters, side by side at the crime sites, from a respectful distance, with a straightforward perspective. Heine's photos show us the courage, strength, hope, dignity, and optimism radiating from these women, despite the suffering they have endured.

Besides a travelogue by the Berlin-based artist, this volume of photographs contains brief statements from the women about how they dealt with their experiences, as well as informative essays by the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* editor Antje Stahl, the curator Matthias Harder, and the journalist Andrea Jeska. This photo-book project was produced in collaboration with *ora Kinderhilfe*, an organization that provides psychological and financial support for the victims in Rwanda. Hatje Cantz will donate a portion of the proceeds from this book to Rwandan mothers and daughters.

“Heine's series of images brings this forgotten, collective human tragedy to the public eye, and he exemplifies it with very authentic, emotional, and individual portraits. We owe him our thanks for that,” says Matthias Harder, chief curator of the Helmut Newton Foundation, of Heine's portraits.

Although women in Rwanda have been steadily gaining influence in society ever since the genocide, the rape victims and their children are at the lower end of the social hierarchy. Many young women still manage to rescue their traumatized mothers and help them to free them from the stigma. The courage and optimism of these women in an authoritarian society scarred by trauma are exemplary.

Olaf Heine is a photographer and director. He studied photography and design at the Lette Verein in Berlin, and is mainly known for his portraits of artists, politicians, and athletes, such as Iggy Pop, Bret Easton Ellis, and T.C. Boyle.



OLAF HEINE
RWANDAN DAUGHTERS

Texts by Matthias Harder, Olaf Heine, Antje Stahl

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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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