



RUTH ORKIN

A PHOTO SPIRIT



This is one of Ruth Orkin's best-known photographs: *An American Girl in Italy*. Captured in Florence in 1951, the image shows the daily reality of women who travel around the world on their own. The photog-

rapher herself (1921–1985) knew all too well about the inappropriate behaviour men can display towards women. For this image she paired up with American art student Ninalee Allen Craig, in an effort to capture the kind of experiences that occur all over cities. A typical Orkin motif, this staged scene combines the necessary amounts of humour and obvious criticism, to exemplify the power imbalance between men and women.

Orkin began taking photographs when she was just ten years old. At 17 she grabbed a camera and biked all the way from Los Angeles to New York, to attend the World's Fair. She was one of the first women to study Photography at the Los Angeles City College, establishing herself as one of few female professionals in the field during the forties and fifties. Her photography tells stories of the changing attitude to life of a society in upheaval, as woman began to claim roles beyond those of housewife or mother. Her humorous, yet also serious perspective on the world, become clear through the details of her work, in her feel for movement, timing and composition. This image-rich volume accompanies an exhibition honouring Orkin's 100th birthday. The exhibition can be seen at Berlin's f3, freiraum für fotografie, until November 21, 2021.

240 pages, numerous black and white images, 26.5 × 26.5 cm, English, Hatje Cantz

MICHAEL VON GRAFFENRIED

OUR TOWN

New Bern, North Carolina, was founded in 1710 by Michael von Graffenried from Bern in Switzerland. 300 years later, his descendant, a photographer with the same name (born 1957) explores the city through his lens, observing its population of 30 000, made up of 55% white and 35% black people. He developed his long term project over the course of 15 years.

240 pages, 120 colour images, 30.5 × 24.5 cm, English, Steidl



PETRA BARTH

ANDERSWO/ELSEWHERE

Starting from her own experiences living in rural, post-war Germany, Petra Barth has been collecting intuitive moments captured in black and white photographs, taken in various countries since 2004. This elaborately-designed volume of poetic storytelling is divided into three chapters titled *Memory*, *Stories* and *Dreams*.

160 pages, 70 black and white images, 23.5 × 24,2 cm, English, Schilt



MICHAEL KERSTGENS

1986

If eighties fashion is having a comeback, then the book by photographer Michael Kerstgens (born 1960) provides excellent visual material – from a West German perspective. For those who remember the decade, it is an awful/wonderful trip down memory lane; for anyone younger, it serves as a visual study. 1986: Back



then, Kerstgens, a student at the Folkwang University of the Arts, received a grant from the German Caravanning Industry Association, to photograph 'leisure'. The Ruhr district offered plenty of material for his effort to capture a new, and as yet uncertain, lifestyle, in laconic and retrospectively surprising motifs.

176 pages, 97 colour images, 21 × 27 cm, English/German, Hartmann