

NEW RELEASE 2026



Jessica Backhaus *Papyrus*

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75 color ill.

English

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The Language of Paper: Between Color, Light, and Abstraction

Papyrus is a visual tribute to paper—one of humanity's oldest and most enduring carriers of knowledge. The publication marks the third and final instalment of Jessica Backhaus's trilogy, following *Cut Outs* (2021) and *Plein Soleil* (2024), and continues her exploration of abstraction by reducing visual language to its most essential elements.

In an age of increasing digitization, paper is gradually disappearing from everyday life and collective awareness. *Papyrus* responds to this shift by deliberately focusing on paper as both a cultural and artistic medium, foregrounding its material presence and sensory qualities.

The title refers not only to the ancient writing material but also serves as a conceptual bridge between past and present forms of expression. In antiquity, papyrus was among the earliest surfaces used to record human thoughts, memories, and ideas—a fragile yet enduring medium for poetry, philosophy, rituals, and historical records. Backhaus reimagines papyrus as a metaphor for communication beyond words. Through color, form, texture, and light, her photographs create emotional inscriptions that invite contemplation rather than explanation. The work explores how the simplest visual elements can evoke profound emotional resonance, creating a space for reflection, perception, and imagination.

For Backhaus, abstraction is not a departure from reality but a deeper engagement with it. By removing recognizable imagery, she creates space for intuition, ambiguity, and emotional experience. Clarity emerges not through representation but through resonance.

»I worked with various colored papers and natural sunlight as the main elements. These materials are humble, ephemeral, and direct. Color becomes my vocabulary—each hue becomes a statement and is chosen for its emotional weight, its temperature, and its ability to suggest presence or absence. Sunlight becomes my collaborator, transforming the work through time and shadow and breathing life and transience into it. In this process, I use color as a form of writing—I mark space, time, and emotions without a verbal narrative.«—Jessica Backhaus

Jessica Backhaus (b. 1970) is widely regarded as one of the leading voices in contemporary German photography today. Her work is exhibited and collected internationally, she lives and works in Berlin. *Papyrus* marks her tenth publication with Kehrer Verlag.

Exhibitions:

Enter Art Fair, Robert Morat Galerie, Solo booth, Copenhagen 26.–30. Aug 2026

Leica Galerie, Frankfurt, Oct 2026 – Feb 2027

Paris Photo, Robert Morat Galerie, 11.–15. Nov 2026

Art Week Luxemburg, Galerie Anja Knoess, 19.–22. Nov 2026

House of Galleries, Robert Morat Galerie, Solo booth, Frankfurt, Jan 2027

Robert Morat Galerie, Berlin, Solo Show, Spring 2027

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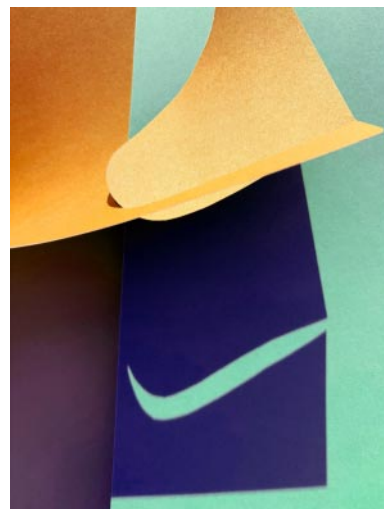
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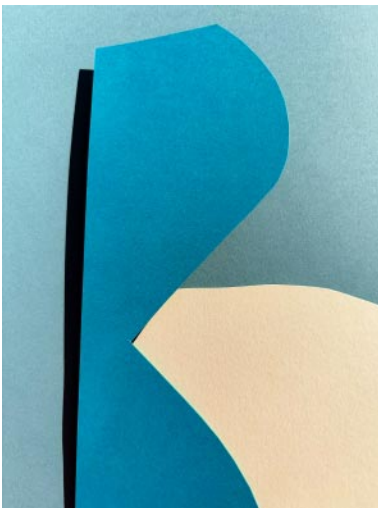
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