



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Aapo Huhta *Omatandangole*

Texts by Darren Campion, Aapo Huhta
Designed by HK and Aapo Huhta
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The Finnish photographer lays a dreary trail across an eerie scene of nature in the Namibian desert.

Aapo Huhta's pictures from the Namibian desert consider what might be left when all we think we know about ourselves, about human society, has been stripped away. The place itself, a vast emptiness that threatens to engulf everything it touches, is both the catalyst for this loss and its final manifestation. There is a long tradition in art of using places to reflect on human experiences, and Huhta's pictures certainly belong to this tradition, not least because they are images of feeling that eschew simple description or documentation. He depends on an imaginatively loaded series of encounters to bring out the symbolic or metaphorical aspects of this real place, so that it becomes, effectively, a stage-set to enact a drama that is at once personal and global. Similarly, the title *Omatandangole* is a local word that indicates a mirage phenomenon, something that seems real, but is ultimately just an illusion, created by the unique conditions of the desert environment. It tells us that we have arrived at a place where 'normal' experiences of body and mind no longer apply.

»Even though our surroundings are chaotic and broken it is possible to create photographs that show them as complete and pristine, so unlike what they are in reality. And yet – in that brief moment that is captured by the camera, wasn't that sense of completeness true for a fleeting moment? An elusive bliss that can dissolve as fast as it emerged.« – Aapo Huhta

Aapo Huhta (b. 1985) is a Helsinki based photographer. He received an MA in photography from the Aalto University of

Arts and Design, Helsinki Finland. He combines elements of documentary practise with his own subjective observations, building a range of ambiguous and often fragmented narratives in his work. Exploring different forms of photographic essay, its methods and possibilities is playing a major role in his work. The exploration has culminated in two photobooks, *Block* (Kehrer Verlag 2015) and *Omatandangole* (Kehrer Verlag 2019). In 2014, Huhta was selected as one of the Top 30 Under 30 photographers by the Magnum Photos. He received the award of the Young Nordic Photographer of the Year 2015 and was chosen for the Joop Swart Masterclass in 2016. Huhta's work has been published in Vice, The Guardian/The Observer, Bloomberg Businessweek, Stern, Financial Times, Die Zeit Magazine, Dazed Digital, Morgenbladet, Paper Journal, Fotografia Magazine, GUP Magazine among others.
aapohuhta.com

The photo series *Omatandangole* was shot in Namibia between 2016 and 2018. It was shortlisted for the Unseen Dummy Award 2018 and received the Artproof Grant 2019.

Exhibition

Block, Northern Photographic Centre Oulu, Finland
10.08.– 15.09.2019

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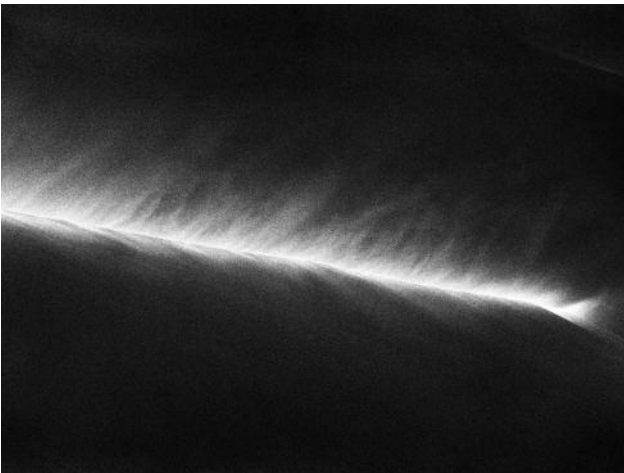
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