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Alexandre Miguel Maia Enter the Forest

Text by Alexandre Miguel Maia
Designed by Alexandre Miguel Maia
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A book that portrays the forest from its calm and unobtrusive side, captured on analog film

Versatile, largely untouched woodlands, often only fleeting moments of ever-changing flora, captured on analog film. In this way, Alexandre Maia continues a tradition that focuses on the German forest as a leitmotif in the field of photography. The photographer repeatedly wandered through German wetlands and heaths, as well as mixed, coniferous, and mountain forests during different weather conditions, times of day, and seasons—always focusing on the changing atmosphere.

However, not only the phenomenon of forest solitude is a feature of this series, but also the expansion of views with regard to the climate and environmental consciousness. An awareness of the endangered natural kingdom is physically reflected in the production of the book—printed on certified recycled paper and produced in Germany, *Enter the Forest* thus captures the spirit of the time.

From the text by Alexandre Miguel Maia:

The book Enter the Forest portrays the woods as tranquil and reserved place, largely left to itself—only careful observation reveals the rich diversity and unique beauty of its ever-changing flora. The photographs were taken primarily in northern and southern parts of Germany over a period of six years. The journey took me through wetlands and heathlands, through mixed and coniferous forests, as well as mountain forests reaching up to the tree line. I visited some areas several times through different weather conditions, times of day, and seasons, in order to encapsulate the resulting shifts in atmosphere.

It was fascinating to realize that one does not have to travel far to experience exciting adventures: for instance, a day-long hike where you come across more wildlife than people, or a travel map

that announces a large lake in the middle of a dense forest, which then turns out to be an almost completely dried-out crater. The moment, however, that will remain forever in my memory with all its magic, was the surprising discovery of a white deer in the middle of a large herd. I had the privilege of observing this beautiful animal—unnoticed—for a while before it eventually disappeared back into the forest.

Today, I have a much deeper appreciation for the forest with all its unique charm. Through this project I have learned to value the variety that nature has to offer. It therefore fills me with great joy to be able to convey and share these intense feelings and impressions with the viewer by way of my photographs.

Alexandre Miguel Maia (*1982) is a photographer based in Hamburg, Germany. At the age of seventeen he already worked as a 3D artist. His first experience in photography he gathered 2003 at a technical secondary school for interior design. There he quickly realized that analog photography suits his personality. Since then he has shown his work in several solo and group exhibitions in Hamburg. *Enter the Forest* is his first monograph.

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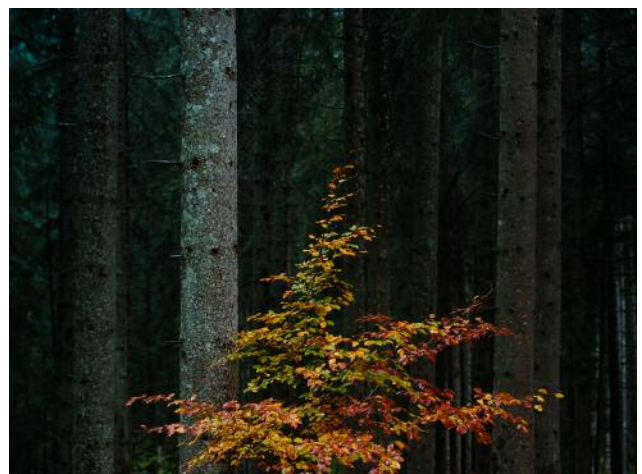
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