



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Alicja Dobrucka
I like you, I like you a lot

Texts by Thomas Frangenberg, Olivier Richon
 Designed by Alicja Dobrucka and Kehrер Design (Anja Aronska)
 Hardcover with dust jacket
 19,2 x 24 cm
 128 pages
 61 color ill.
 English
 ISBN 978-3-86828-946-6
 Euro 38,00 / GBP 35,00

Moving pictures of a personal story about family and loss in times of a changing culture in Poland

I like you, I like you a lot is a personal work about family and the experience of death and mourning. It responds to the tragic loss of the photographer's 13-year-old brother Maks, who drowned while on a scout's trip in 2008 in Poland. The pictures reveal the sequence of events in the aftermath of the tragedy. Alicja Dobrucka's camera became a protecting shield from the brutal reality of a helpless situation. The deceased brother and his closest friends formed a small group. Dressed in uniforms of American soldiers they would play in the Silesian landscapes once painted by Caspar David Friedrich. Communism ended in 1990 when Poland opened its borders to a flood of Western products and ideals. Maks and his friends were the first generation to grow up under that changing culture. The camera witnesses how they were enthralled by Western and especially American archetypes.

From the text by Olivier Richon:

»Kafka and Friedrich have been called upon as cultural off frames that inform my reading of *I like you, I like you a lot*, opening and closing the visual narrative in the manner of two book ends. A writer and a painter, both from central Europe. Here photography is a narrative form predicated upon the restful silence of images — the silence of a crypt. It is a reliquary of sorts that uses the camera as a container that preserves images. The photographs are these visual relics that articulate an aesthetic and emotional relation to loss. They follow a structure of disavowal, what Freud called *Verleugnung*, which achieves a compromise wherein the memory of the departed is conserved and abandoned. To accept

the verdict of reality and yet to maintain a belief in the existence of the departed through the photograph as relic. The photograph as relic is a frozen moment reminiscent of the arrested motion of baroque art, an art that flourished in Silesia. But these photographs are not just relics, they are also works of art with a haunting off frame.«

Alicja Dobrucka (b. 1985 in Poland) is a contemporary photographer based in London and Mumbai. In 2010 she received the highly competitive Deutsche Bank Fine Art Award and Grant in Photography. In 2016, she received the 3rd INPHA Award in Ohio, and won the Colour Award in the Architecture Category in 2015. She has exhibited internationally, her work is in collections such as the Wienerberger Collection, Vienna, Austria, the Krakow Museum of Photography, Poland, the Paul Smith Collection, London, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Beijing, China, and the Space 118 Collection, Mumbai, India.
www.alicjadobrucka.com

Thomas Frangenberg (1957–2018) was a brilliant historian of Renaissance painting and sculpture, a highly astute collector of conceptual art, and a much-respected editor.

Olivier Richon is an artist working with photography. He was born in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1956, and studied at the Polytechnic of Central London, where he was taught by Victor Burgin. Richon has been head of Photography at the Royal College of Art since 1997.

Please note:

These photographs have been copyright cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction in the context of reviews of the books only. Print media: No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped. Online media may use a total of TWELVE images in a gallery.

For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher's press office:

Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com
pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrер Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25 | Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com

Press images



01
© Alicja Dobrucka



02
© Alicja Dobrucka



03
© Alicja Dobrucka



04
© Alicja Dobrucka



05
© Alicja Dobrucka



06
© Alicja Dobrucka



07
© Alicja Dobrucka



08
© Alicja Dobrucka



09
© Alicja Dobrucka



10
© Alicja Dobrucka



11
© Alicja Dobrucka



12
© Alicja Dobrucka