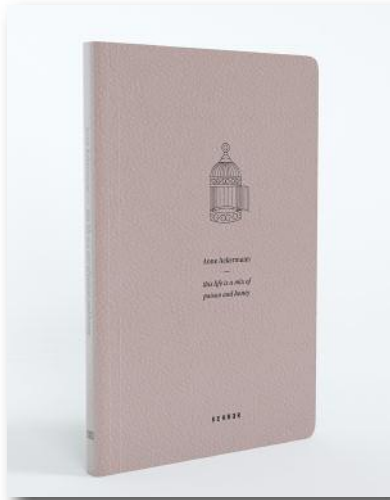


NEW RELEASE MAY 2022



Anne Ackermann this life is a mix of poison and honey

Texts by Anne Ackermann, Ermira Danaj

Designed by Björn Schmidt

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11,4 x 17,1 cm

156 pages

54 color photos and 11 drawings

English

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The unchanged role of women in post-communist Albania: virgin, housewife, mother, worker

this life is a mix of poison and honey is a rhythmical alternation between themed photo sequences, illustrations and short proverbs from Albania. It draws the viewer into a visual meditation on the place of women in general while alluding to the fact that true equality between the sexes is still a distant reality. Though set in Albania, this book is thought as a mirror for our society.

From the text by **Ermira Danaj**:

When Anne told me she was working on this book of pictures and proverbs about women's lives and conditions in Albania, the first thing that came to mind was an expression almost all pregnant Albanian women have heard: "Pray to God that you have a son." Those uttering this wish might mean it innocently enough. What harm could such a wish possibly do—other than constantly diminish and depreciate the role of girls and women! Hence the importance of the symbolic violence embodied by this wish, of that violence that enables and perpetuates the subjugated and unequal status of women in Albania, in this particular case, but far beyond Albania as well. In most cases, our beliefs, norms, expectations, and practices, as well as the way institutions work and interact with us (and vice-versa) are deeply embedded in traditional symbols, songs, tales, mythology, and proverbs, among other cultural elements. And this interplay becomes acutely tangible in matters that concern gender relations; indeed, gender relations and roles are often explained (or outright justified) through such traditional tales, proverbs, and stories.

Anne Ackermann (b. 1980) is a photographer and visual storyteller based in Germany working worldwide. She graduated from the College of Fine Arts Hamburg with a master in Visual Communication/Media and studied photography & photojournalism in Buenos Aires, Argentina and at Danish School of Journalism, Århus, Denmark. She is a multiple grantee of VG Bild-Kunst and recipient of artists' grants of Photoreporter Festival St. Brieuç, France, and the Ministry of Culture of Rhineland Palatinate, a finalist at the International Women Photographers Award (IWPA), The Bar Tur Award, The Global Peace Photo Award, The Jacob Riis Award and the Hansel Mieth Preis. In 2021 she won the Martin Lagois Prize. Her photos have been exhibited worldwide, e.g. FotoGrafia Festival (Rome), New York Photo Festival, Triennial of Photography, Hamburg, amongst others.

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Ermira Danaj is a feminist sociologist, PhD in social sciences (University of Neuchatel), and a Fulbright Scholar Alumna (The New School). Since 2002, she has co-authored and authored various research reports, books, and articles on gender and feminist studies in Albania and the Balkans. Recently, she has published the book *Women, Migration and Gendered Experiences - The case of post-1991 Albanian Migration* (Springer, 2022), and co-edited the collective book *Le désir au féminin* (Ramsay, 2022).

Book presentation

Goethe Institute Tirana, Albania

Fall 2022

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