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Bernhard Mayr Erinnerungen an Sarajevo – Remember Those Days ...

Texts by Ivo Andrić, Bernhard Mayr, Margaret Mazzantini, Husain Tahmiščić Designed by Bernhard Mayr Hardcover 24 x 30,5 cm 120 pages 110 color and b/w ills. English / German ISBN 978-3-86828-730-1 Euro 39,90

In this work, images of contemporary Sarajevo are interlaced with images and texts from the city before the war

In Sarajevo, Bernhard Mayr did not focus primarily on open war wounds, but instead uses his poetic photographs to rebut our media-influenced preconceptions and, in doing so, restores the city's unagitated daily life.

»My photographs do not strive to reduce Sarajevo to a noun for the localization and surveying of a city on the map, but rather see Sarajevo as an adjective, which carefully sounds out a mental and emotional state of being.«

In this work, images of contemporary Sarajevo are interlaced with images and texts from a book on Sarajevo published in 1969, which he discovered after he had completed his visual research. Timelessly critical essays, as well as out-dated anecdotes about (co-)existence in this city, are thus introduced into his work and sketch an environment rich with atmosphere, the sediments of which appear to consolidate themselves in Mayr's photographs in surprising ways.

Bernhard Mayr (b. 1976) lives and works in Graz, Austria. The work of Bernhard Mayr has been on show in the following single and group exhibitions: Academy of Arts, Berlin, the Art Gallery of the RLB in Innsbruck, the FotoForum in Bolzano; permanent installation of his photographs at the Mitterstall in Brandberg, a project of the Austrian Council for the Preservation of Historical Monuments. Book Awards:

Nomination for the German PhotoBook Prize and the category Most Beautiful Books of Austria, and Best International Photobooks at the PHotoEspaña, Madrid.

»Old Sarajevo sinks ever deeper into the violet twilight beneath us, Sarajevo with its buildings of all times and styles, its churches old and new, its synagogues and numerous mosques with poplar trees next to them, themselves slender and tall as minarets. A city of revolts and wars, riches and years of famine, of fatal epidemics and destructive fires, a city of skillful people who always loved and cherished life although they knew it well both from its front and back side. Its face, in the last light of twilight, looks very ancient and wise. [...]

And at whatever time of day and from whatever elevated point one looks at Sarajevo, the same thought will always occur: This is a real city. A city aging and dying, and at the same time, a city being reborn and reshaped.«

— Ivo Andrić

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