

NEW RELEASE 2025

## Sibylle Fendt *Before the time comes*

Texts by Sibylle Fendt and the portrayed persons

Designed by studio lindhorst-emme+hinrichs

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77 color ill.

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### An intimate glimpse into the final moments of a life

*Before the time comes* marks the third Kehrer publication by renowned documentary photographer Sibylle Fendt. The series offers a moving portrayal of individuals in the final stage of life, spending their remaining time at home, surrounded by family and friends. With death still considered a social taboo, Fendt's body of work creates a space for openness, closeness, and compassion. Her photographs, accompanied by the words of those depicted, offer intimate insights into the last moments of life—moments in which pain, tenderness, and love are inseparably intertwined.

*And then he sits in the bedroom. And when I walk past, I have noticed him crying. And I've said to myself: "He won't make it to the end. He can't take it." Perhaps it's more difficult for the person left behind when you have to go.*

Fendt's sensitive visual language avoids any form of beautification, yet allows for a loving and respectful view of life's remaining time. The book reminds us that there is meaning, even in the final days and hours—in moments when every emotion is allowed to exist. In the face of farewell, the home becomes a place of comfort and an anchor amid the act of letting go.

From the text by **Sibylle Fendt**:

*A homecoming – to find peace, to breathe a sigh of relief. More than anywhere else, home is where they can truly be close to their loved ones. The place where they are in control of the script and not just a guest. Their home becomes the place for one last sigh of relief, one last chance to share a laugh, one last chance to hold their companion's hand and then – they hope – the place where they can gently leave this world behind.*

The design of the book reflects the intimacy and emotional depth

of its subject: shortened pages and a rhythmic interplay of image and text create a cinematic sequence, which draws the viewer closer to the scene. The final pages are devoted to Fendt's own personal loss—the death of her husband. In her poignant words, it becomes clear how deeply her artistic work is intertwined with her own experience of letting go.

From the text by **Sibylle Fendt**:

*I'm afraid of losing the memories of these last three days. I want to hold on to these days. Everything. Every second, every feeling, everything that happened. All these indescribable, incomprehensible, uncategorisable events. And I don't know what to do with myself.*

With *Before the time comes*, Sibylle Fendt has created an intimate body of work which confronts death not with fear or denial, but as an inevitable human part of life.

**Sibylle Fendt** (\*1974) lives in Berlin and is a member of the renowned Ostkreuz Agency. Her work is often socially engaged and has received numerous awards, including the Documentary Photography Award of the Wüstenrot Foundation (2003) and participation in the World Press Photo Masterclass the same year. Her photobook *Gärtners Reise* (Kehrer Verlag, 2012) received the Deutsche Fotobuchpreis (German Photobook Award) Silver in 2013. In 2020, she published *Holzbachtal, nothing, nothing*, also with Kehrer Verlag.

### Exhibition

*Bevor es so weit ist*

Haus#1, Berlin, Germany

08.11. – 30.11.2025

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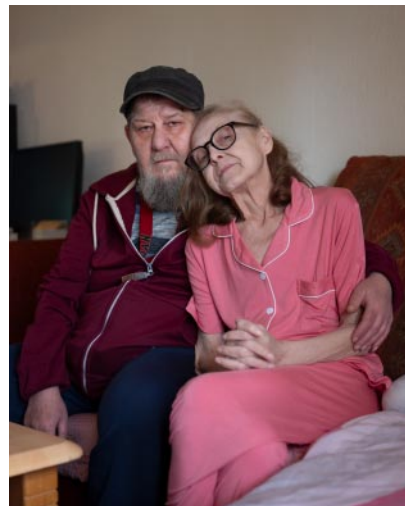
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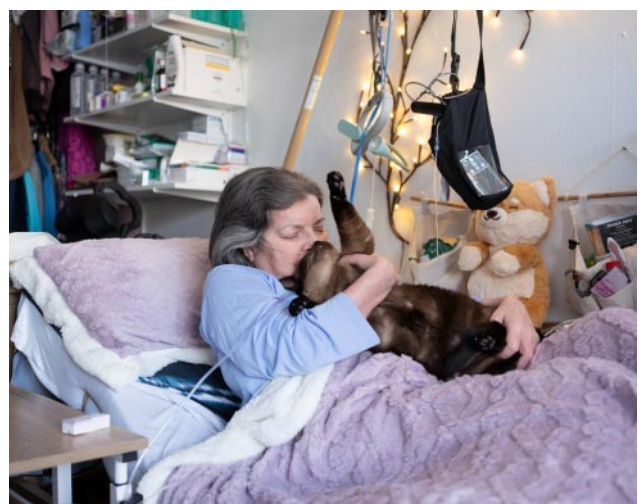
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