



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Fie Johansen All the Things You Are

Texts by Tove Thage
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In poetic portraits Fie Johansen tells stories about the sensitive animals and their expressions.

All the Things You Are is a black and white photography series shot during a two-year period in Copenhagen Zoo. It reflects on who we are, taking a closer look at other species with whom we all share a certain amount of DNA. We have to acknowledge that animals are individuals and sensitive beings, conscious and aware of their surroundings. It is a strong nonverbal connection between the inhabitants and the photographer.

From the text by Tove Thage:

»All the Things You Are gives the viewer the idea of process and the uncertainty of the present. The images mediate a sense of the materials and feelings connected to the island of Eden, once uninhabited by humans. With close examination of the physicality of the images and their pictorial content, it can be seen how time destroys and how a lived experience—such as personal sorrow and ordinary pleasures—remains elusive. The content of the animal portraits is, however, abstract and reveals its inherent analog materiality: The editing alternates between a cluster of images of animals in motion and close-up shots that reveal the unique texture of feathers and furs and random bursts of light that alter the very surface of the photograph, which seems at times to be at the point of disintegrating.«

(...)

Fie Johansen's artistry as a contemporary pictorialist printmaker and digital photographer sets the formal and symbolic powers of these animal studies free and enables the achievement of the pre-eminent characteristic of her work since the 1980s. There is no escapist nostalgia in her interpretations of animal life, but rather an

*echo of Maurice Maeterlinck's collection of essays *Le trésor des humbles*, the stillness of the photograph. In the stillness lies a hidden truth: the truth of thoughts, the truth of love, the truth of meeting your own self. These animal portraits act like a silent loudspeaker. Are we the same? Are we pure animals, are we pure nature, or are we an assemblage, a hybrid of nature, animal, and humanoid?»*

Fie Johansen (b. 1953), is a prizewinning photographer and one of the pioneers of digital photography and printing in Denmark. She is also known for her analog work with non-silver and historic printing processes. Her works have been part of international exhibitions in L. A., New York, Paris, St. Petersburg and many more.

fiejohansen.com

Tove Thage, PhD, is a senior researcher, writer and reviewer, as well as an art historian, specialized in the photographic medium and its history.

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