Fred Stein
PARIS – NEW YORK

Edited by Dawn Freer
Texts by Cily Kugelmann, Gilles Mora, Rosemary Sullivan, Theresia Ziehe
Hardcover, 24 x 31 cm
200 pages
128 duotone ills.
English / German
ISBN 978-3-86828-966-4
Euro 39.90

New edition of the first comprehensive publication on the work of this stunning 20th century documentary artist

Fred Stein (1909 Dresden – 1967 New York) was a master of the art of street photography. As an early pioneer of the hand-held camera, he captured poignant moments in the street life of two of the world’s great cities: Paris and New York where he lived after fleeing from Nazi Germany. This same immediacy infuses his penetrating portraits of the great personalities of the era, among them Albert Einstein, Hannah Arendt, Georgia O’Keeffe, Marc Chagall, or the portraits of Gerda Taro and Robert Capa, recovered in the legendary Mexican Suitcase. Stein’s images are a vital document of the 20th century and an important part of photo history. Among the museums where his photographs can be found are the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington; the International Center of Photography, New York, the National Portrait Gallery, Washington; The Center for Creative Photography, Tucson; the Musée Carnavalet, Paris; the Jewish Museum, New York.

Stein left behind a complex and existent oeuvre which this publication presents comprehensively for the first time. This new edition is released on the occasion of the premiere screening of the documentary film Light out of Darkness: The Photography of Fred Stein.

«Fred Stein was an exile; chance is what made him the outsider. It was from this vantage point that his approach and his vision derived. Chance also meant that Fred Stein died in 1967 before the wave of interest in documentary photography stormed through New York in the 1970s, securing the fame of photographers like Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Brassai and André Kertész, so that Stein’s name was left out of the art history books. Fred Stein was a stunning documentary artist. With this selection from his work, he is finally being restored to their company.»
Rosemary Sullivan

Exhibition
Fred Stein. Dresden – Paris - New York
Sprengel Museum Hannover, Germany
23.10.2019 - 26.01.2020

Premiere screening of the documentary film
Light out of Darkness: The Photography of Fred Stein
Sprengel Museum Hannover, 25.10.2019

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Barbara Karf, barbara.karf@kehrerverlag.com or pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com
Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25, Fax ++49 (o)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com

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