Block is a photographic essay, amassed as a set of visions, offering hints for storylines in a murky, dystopic scene of the city witnessed by a stranger. Focusing on gray, concrete features with some people as spectators, narrowing down the elements in the frame, driven most often by the observation of the shapes the light creates, it alludes to a mute perspective toward contemporary city life and the people’s role in it. Simultaneously it is a story where the photographer plays the role of a protagonist in the big city that throws a newcomer into its infinite whirl of new people and peculiar surroundings. Photographs for the book were shot in New York between 2014 and 2015.

Aapo Huhtá (b. 1985) is a Finnish photographer who recently completed his MA in photography at the Aalto University of Arts and Design, Helsinki. He received the award of the Finnish Young Photo Journalist of the Year 2011. In 2014 Huhtá was selected as one of the Top 30 Under 30 photographers by Magnum Photos, won the PDN Photo Annual Student Work Prize.

Exhibitions

Gallery Lasipalatsi, Helsinki
07.09. – 27.09.2015
Kainuu Art Museum – Kajaani, Finland
01.10. – 21.11.2015

«[...]We fought wars over money and honor and women. We starved ourselves. We hired prostitutes. We purified our water. We compromised, decorated, and became esoteric. One of us stopped breathing and turned blue, then others. First we covered them with leaves and then we buried them in the ground.

We remembered them. We forgot them. We aged. Our buildings kept getting taller. We hired lawyers and formed councils and left paper trails. We negotiated. We admitted. We got sick and searched for cures. We invented lipstick, vaccines, Pilates, solar panels, interventions, table manners, firearms, window treatments, therapy, birth control, tailgating, status symbols, palimony, sportsmanship, focus groups, Zoloft, sunscreen, landscaping, Cessnas, fortune cookies, chemotherapy, convenience foods, and computers. We angered militants and our mothers.[...]»

— Jenny Hollowell

A History Of Everything, Including You

Photographic Essay on disconnection in an urban environment
Press Images