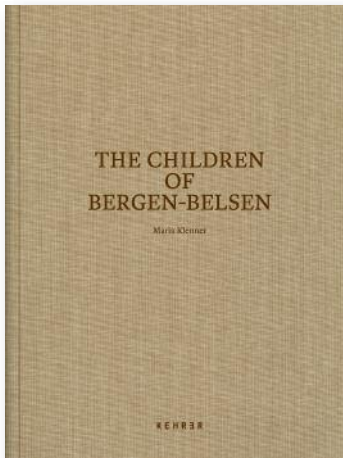


NEW RELEASE 2023



Maria Klenner *The Children of Bergen-Belsen*

Texts by Maria Klenner
 Epilogue by Charlotte Wiedemann
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Documenting a chapter of German post-war history still little known today

In her first monograph *The Children of Bergen-Belsen*, Maria Klenner focuses on the fates of 2,000 children who were born right after the end of the Second World War in the displaced persons camp set up by the Allies in Bergen-Belsen. Over the course of eight years, 26 portraits and eyewitness accounts by descendants of Holocaust survivors could be gathered to form a valuable collection. Combined with archival material and historical images, this sensitive study sheds light on questions of history and migration, identity and belonging, trauma and new beginnings – questions that haven't lost any of their relevance until today.

The Displaced Persons Camp Bergen-Belsen (1945–1950):

After liberation, the British army brought the survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to the nearby Wehrmacht barracks and took care of them. Up to 12,000 people lived in the Jewish DP camp Bergen-Belsen. Concentration camp prisoners, forced laborers and prisoners of war deported to Germany from all over Europe were given the legal status of displaced persons (DP) by the Allies.

Romana Strochlitz-Primus:

My father maybe weighed thirty-eight kilograms, he couldn't walk. He was aware of liberation, his mind was fine. But that fifteen months later I should be born, that they had enough faith in life and in their future and in each other, I still find it a miracle.

Abraham Rajber:

They wanted to survive, to bear witness to what had happened. From one day to another.

Why? I guess the human spirit loves to live.

Aaron Lerman:

It is a very dark place for anyone to be born in. I am not the first or the last to be born in a place of horror anywhere else in the world. It goes on all the time now.

The German portrait and documentary photographer **Maria Klenner** (*1990) is based between Berlin and Beirut, Lebanon. After being trained in documentary photography at the Hanover University of Applied Science and Arts and La Cambre in Brussels, she earned an MA in history and sociology. Klenner regularly contributes to international newspapers and magazines. She is a member of Women Photograph and Agentur Focus and speaks German, English, French, Arabic and Spanish. *The Children of Bergen-Belsen* is her first book published by Kehrer Verlag.

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Press images



01_Romana Strochlitz-Primus
born July 3, 1946, photographed in New York City, USA
© Maria Klenner



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born May 25, 1947, photographed in Ramat Efal, Israel / Palestine
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