

NEW RELEASE

Priya Ramrakha *The Recovered Archive*

Edited by Erin Haney, Shravan Vidyarthi
 Introduction by Paul Theroux
 Texts by Sana Aiyar, John Edwin Mason, Erin Haney,
 Shravan Vidyarthi
 Designed by Bonnie Briant
 Hardcover
 22,9 x 30,3 cm, 200 pages
 ca. 225 color and b/w ill.
 English
 ISBN 978-3-86828-874-2
 Euro 39,90 / GBP 35.00 / US\$ 50.00

The work of Priya Ramrakha, pioneering African photojournalist, and one of the first to be employed by Time/Life

Priya Ramrakha (1935 – 1968) was one of Kenya's first photojournalists, and one of the first Africans to ever photograph regularly for Life and Time magazines. Hailing from a family of journalists, Ramrakha was uniquely positioned to convey the turbulence and promise of Africa in the 1950s and 1960s. He photographed life under Kenya's color bar, as well as rarely-seen portraits of protestors and the leaders of Kenya's multiracial independence movements. Ramrakha's iconic imagery of political change around the continent and the globe were singular: from the wrongfully imprisoned of Kenya's Mau Mau rebellion, to the coups and tumult that came in the wake of Africa's decolonization. He portrayed a more capacious view of Africa's new citizens: its international leaders and working people, artists and musicians, conscripted soldiers and civilians.

After meeting Life photographer Eliot Elisofon, Ramrakha traveled to the USA, where he surveyed dramatic scenes of civil rights' movements and desegregation, notable American figures – among them Martin Luther King Jr, John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X –, and daily life in Los Angeles and New York. Ramrakha returned to Kenya in 1963 where, newly hired by Life, he covered independence movements and celebrations across Africa, and the coups and rebellions which followed in the first decade of the Cold War. Out of those assignments came some of Ramrakha's most well-known work, of the Biafran civil war in Nigeria.

Ramrakha died in 1968, killed in crossfire while covering the frontlines of Biafra, Nigeria, aged 33.

40 years later, the lost archive of Ramrakha's prints, negatives, documents and family photos were uncovered in a Nairobi basement by Priya's cousin, Shravan Vidyarthi, a Kenyan filmmaker. Vidyarthi has spent the past several years researching and organizing the vast photographic archive, and produced the award winning documentary film *African Lens - The Story of Priya Ramrakha*.

This is the first publication to explore the work of Priya Ramrakha. Dense with photographs, this volume is enriched with short essays which connect and expand the images thematically, providing vital political, historical, and cultural background. Ramrakha's images afford new insights into the ethical role that African photographers in particular played in capturing pivotal moments in global history. They reveal his subjects with measures of respect and acuity, during a time of vast political change in Africa and beyond.

Exhibitions

Photoville, Brooklyn, NY, September 2018

South African National Gallery, Cape Town
 August 2018 – February 2019

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda
 Spring 2019

Please note: These photographs have been copyright cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction in the context of reviews of the book only.

Print media: No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped. Online media may use a total of TWELVE images in a gallery.

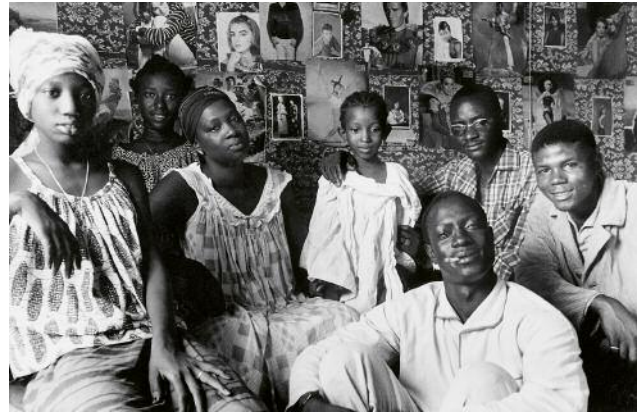
For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher's press office:

Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com or
 Sandra Dürdoth, sandra.duerdoth@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25, Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com

Press images



1 Women and men volunteers training as Biafra troops, Enugu, Nigeria, c. 1967
© Priya Ramrakha



2 Family gathering, Accra, Ghana, c. 1966
© Priya Ramrakha



3 Bicyclists, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, c. 1964
© Priya Ramrakha



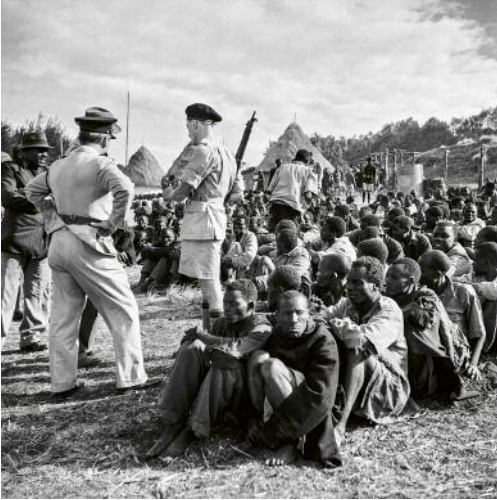
4 Musicians and singers, Accra, Ghana, 1966
© Priya Ramrakha



5 Women, Democratic Republic of Congo, 1964
© Priya Ramrakha



6 French soldiers battle rioters during the French Somaliland independence referendum, March 1967 © Priya Ramrakha



7 Detainees lining up for summary hearings in detention camps, Kenya, c. 1953-4 © Priya Ramrakha



8 British attack, Aden, Yemen, April 1967 © Priya Ramrakha



9 Fashion shoot for Raymonds clothing, Nairobi, Kenya, 1967 © Priya Ramrakha



10 Fashion shoot for Raymonds clothing, Nairobi, Kenya, 1967 © Priya Ramrakha



Malcolm X and Nation of Islam protestors, New York, USA, 1960 © Priya Ramrakha



12 Children playing, TWA terminal, Los Angeles, USA, c. 1960 © Priya Ramrakha



13 International press corps, Independence Day, 12 December, Nairobi, Kenya, 1963 © Priya Ramrakha



14 Unknown photographer: Priya Ramrakha, c. 1967



15 Obituary in Life Magazine, Life, 11 October 1968