



NEW RELEASE

Christopher Taylor Illuminations

Texts by Christopher Taylor, Raymond Taylor

Designed by Katla Taylor

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138 color illustrations

English, French

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A visual eulogy to parents and family memories

This world is a house of many mirrors. Wherever you turn you see your own images in the glass.

— Ahmed Ali, *Twilight in Dehli* (1940)

Christopher Taylor comes from Skegness, a resort town on the east coast of England. When returning to visit his parents, he felt increasingly drawn to reflect on the past and childhood memories. He began to take photographs with his Rolleiflex and a bag of expired color film a journalist friend had given him.

As the idea of making a book began to take shape, he decided to complement his photographs, which explore emotions, with a chronological visual archive of family snapshots and other documents or items that caught his eye. This became the structural form of *Illuminations*, a book in two parts, two books in one. Taylor's daughter has designed the book, so bringing this family story full circle.

From the text by **Christopher Taylor**:

I grew up in Skegness, a seaside resort on the east coast of England. My mother still lives in the house in which I was born sixty-three years ago. My father recently passed away. Pursuing their respective interests with passion — flower arranging for my mother, music and books for my father — the house has been filled to capacity, a repository of memory. I visit periodically and attempt to rationalise the accumulated disorder, but often pause to contemplate a long forgotten item resurfacing from the past. All the memorabilia seems to still the air and one might be tricked into thinking the passage of time has been slowed. Perhaps the ploy is deliberate, though my mother's love of flowers betrays this notion; their decay is all too rapid.

(...)

My parents' home is near a coastal reserve where I spent much of my childhood. I still go there for long walks with my camera, a willing spectator to changing seasons. Switching from my usual black & white film, I began to experiment with a bag of mostly expired colour stock that a journalist friend was clearing out. I felt the need to record this private sanctuary filled with memories and the colours seemed necessary.

(...)

Over time our home comes to resemble an extension of ourselves. The objects collected over a lifetime reflect facets of our persona, even as couples may feel compelled to compromise. Sometimes such conflicts result in sections of the house colonised to suit one or other of the occupants, with a décor to match. Entering a stranger's home we will observe carefully for visible clues as to the nature of the person who lives there. The longer someone occupies a place, the more pronounced are these signs that eventually come to frame identity.

A trained zoologist and self taught photographer, **Christopher Taylor** (b. 1958) has exhibited his work in Paris, Madrid, London, Beijing, Delhi, Mumbai, and Calcutta.

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Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com or

pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com

Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany

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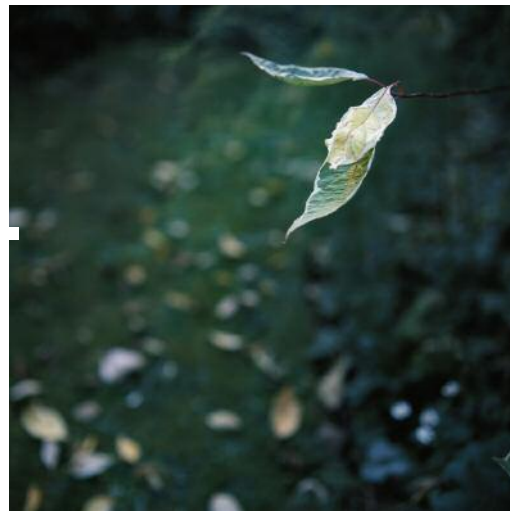
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