

NEW RELEASE

Tomeu Coll ***Badlands*** ***Raised by Bones***

Texts by Donna Ferrato, Celia Traviesas, Tomeu Coll
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A dark and mythical view of the *Badlands*, the »males terres« of Mallorca, an island better known for its golden sun and gilded tourists

From the text by Celia Traviesas:

»For more than a decade, while not travelling around the world, Tomeu Coll has captured the unfathomable and almost unreal territories of his island: Mallorca (Balearic Islands, Spain). This book contains a selection of snapshots that show the swampy lands of Sant Jordi, his village, and the people who inhabit the place. [...]

Badlands is more than the universe inside a photographer, it's the news hidden in every day's sadness, the chronicle of the degradation of a beltway territory that is going straight to desolation. It's the farmlands that will conquer the industrial estate, like the swamps did in the past. And it's the people that used to farm the land and that today move half dead and disoriented through the road of a progress that will leave them aside. Like it always does.«

– From the text by Tomeu Coll:

»Living in an island is a bit like turning your back to society, or even the whole world. The isolation makes us believe that all that happens away from our boundaries are things from other planets.

More than a century ago, these lands were filled with stagnant waters, wild nature and malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Pirates wouldn't dare to penetrate the marshlands, that even today would turn back into a swamp if it wasn't for the asphalt that keeps them in line. Sometimes it looks like nobody remembers how this place started to be inhabited, or how ambition drowned the earth with sea salt.

But it's the people that live there who write the story. It's their faces that illustrate the past with disdain. They could easily be part of a Carson McCullers novel just as they could pass completely unnoticed. In this island, in spite of an alleged normality, history has been written in blood and desperation. And even then, you can still find beauty in its destruction.«

Tomeu Coll, born 1981 in Mallorca, has been the recipient of several photojournalism and documentary photography awards, including the Illes Balears Photojournalism Award. He was featured as an Emerging Photographer by Smithsonian Magazine (USA) for his project *Badlands*, and has had solo shows at the Winter Festival of Sarajevo and at La Nacional Gallery in New York. Coll currently shoots for Stern, Der Spiegel, L'illustre and other international publications. His work is mostly based on the subject of forgotten fights as well as places, but always trying to reflect the life that remains when everything looks dead.

Exhibitions

Post Tyler Gallery, Cologne, Germany
from November 22, 2019

Casa Planas Centre de Creació Cultural, Palma (Mallorca)
from November 26, 2019

CSF Adams/Kromart Gallery, Rome
from November 29, 2019

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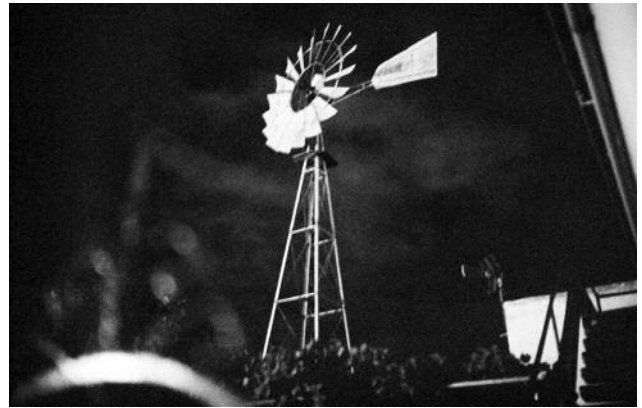
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Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com
 pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
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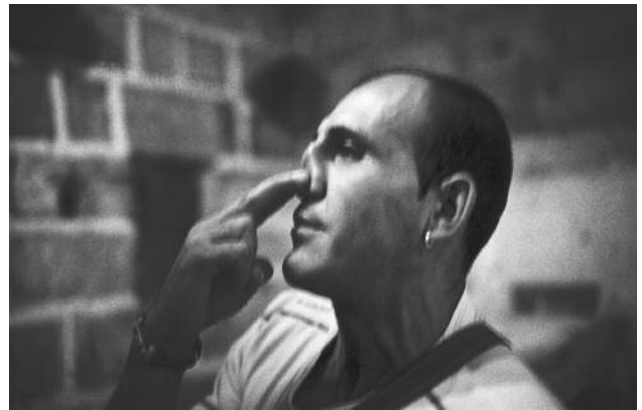
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