



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Julia Calfee Messages

Texts by Julia Calfee, Tarcisius Schelbert
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Photographs of the invisible world in six different countries in Asia and Europe form a tapestry of humanistic geography

Messages covers six different countries in Asia and Europe to which Calfee did not just travel, but where she actually lived for months or even years, searching and finding special people connected to special energies. In many cases these people became her friends and permitted her to photograph freely in very intimate circumstances. Pursuing her quest as an artist with the simple tool of black and white analog photography, she produces unusual humanistic images which lead the reader to reflect on these other worldly moments. Calfee demonstrates that comparable cultural legacies not only prevail today as they did hundreds of years ago but are revered in ways that go beyond the explanation of geographical locations.

Messages consists of three simultaneous presentations: visual with forty-four black and white photographs; emotional through nine written messages which are philosophical and poetical interpretations of human condition in different parts of the world; as well as audio in the form of a 12 inch vinyl record.

The **vinyl record** is a symphony composed, sequenced and edited by the artist from her audio recordings recorded in different places around the world, 1999 to 2016, and is presented in a special slipcase with the *Messages* book as part of the same project.

»We receive Messages in different ways. They are simply signs that are found in everyday life, often ignored but always present; in dreams, in nature, or in different belief systems. Some of these Messages are found in faraway places, others are within our lives. I did not go out of my way to find these Messages, they were there waiting for me and are as present today as when I found them.«
 – Julia Calfee

An artist whose media are photography, video, audio recordings, and writing, **Julia Calfee** has spent most of her professional life living and working in Europe and Asia. She majored in art history at the Sorbonne, Paris. Her projects are always long-term, as she seeks to understand and portray what goes on beneath apparent realities. Her work has been shown in museums and galleries in France, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic, Singapore, and the USA.

In 2016 Calfee published *A Glacier's Requiem* (book with a 12" vinyl record) with Kehrer Verlag. Her earlier books include *Inside: The Chelsea Hotel* (2008), *Spirits and Ghosts* (2003), *Mountain Spirits of Mongolia* (2002) and *Photogeneses / Têtes* (1995).

juliacalfee.com

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Press images



01 The clothed stone statue guarantees a peaceful journey to another world. Japan, Aomori Prefecture © Julia Calfee



02 The ritual of touching feet is a gesture of respect and welcome for a guest or passing stranger. India, Sankeshwar © Julia Calfee



03 The eternal sage guards the peace of this sanctuary without walls. Indonesia, Bali © Julia Calfee



04 Mandalas, symbols of impermanence, are constructed with single grains of sand and destroyed by the flick of a hand. India, Karnataka © Julia Calfee



05 Five-hundred-years-old Kuromatsu tree. Japan, Ishikawa Prefecture © Julia Calfee



06 This pool is fed by underground spring water that is believed to have healing powers. Indonesia, Bali © Julia Calfee



07 Canopies and animal-shaped effigies linger on after a cremation ceremony. Indonesia, Bali © Julia Calfee



08 Final steps of a night procession before Brahmin priests start a long retreat of silence and abstinence. India, Karnataka © Julia Calfee



09 In an atmosphere of joy and celebration, collective cremations are a public affair. Indonesia, Bali © Julia Calfee



10 Offerings of food and drinks are placed on the earth so that the dead body will be welcomed into this burial ground. Mongolia, Ulan Bator © Julia Calfee