

NEW RELEASE

Samantha Dietmar

MExico

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Text by John Berger

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A photographic journey in black and white through Mexico during the presidential elections in the year 2006

In 2006, Samantha Dietmar accompanied the »Otra Campaña« of the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional, which took place in the heated political climate of Mexico parallel to the official presidential election campaign. The series soon developed from a mere photo reportage into a personal work: Dietmar cast a critical eye over the potential, culture, and beauty of Mexico, as well as over its poverty and oppression.

Between the presidential campaign and that of the Zapatistas, between the World Water Forum and workers' demonstrations, between tourism and everyday life, spaces and situations develop, which inscribe themselves into Dietmar's photographs as traces of visible reality. An abundance of scenes and events is condensed into a compilation of photos, while the sum of the individual images reveals a narrative about Mexico, which is both straightforward and ambiguous.

»Mexico City is perhaps the third largest metropolis in the world, with a soaring population of well over 20 million. A city of unbridled consumerism, interlinking rackets, poverty. Entire barrios run by drug gangs. Residential avenues guarded by private security guards in bulletproof vests. Colossal pollution. Traffic chaos. The river Piedad ("Pity") flows east in a monstrous rusty pipeline. Minimal public transportation. There are three "stories" of flyover roads. Beneath them, without a vehicle, you scurry, as an earwig does. Here cars have been made as indispensable as lodgings for those with jobs.

The ancient Aztec city of Tenochtitlán has finally been transformed into a roundabout for the interests of corporate capitalism.»

– from the text by John Berger

Samantha Dietmar (b. in Munich in 1978) studied communication design at the University of Applied Sciences in Würzburg. In addition to reportage, theatre and dance photography, she focuses on long-term projects (*ÜBER VIELES. UND NICHTS*, since 1999, *Bauernwerk*, since 2012). In 2008, she was awarded the 20th Promotion Award by the German Association of Freelance Photographers for her photo book *ÜBER VIELES. UND NICHTS*. Her works were featured in many exhibitions, amongst others at the *photokina* in Cologne (2006, 2008) and at the Museum Villa Stuck in Munich (2010, solo exhibition, catalog). Samantha Dietmar lives and works as a freelance photographer in Berlin. www.fotografischesatelier.com

John Berger (1926,-2017) was not only an art critic, novelist, painter, and poet, he was an intellectual who stood out due to his political commitment. He trained as a painter at the Central School of Arts in London, but years later, he gave up painting to write full-time.

Exhibitions

MExico, Kulturhaus, Karlshorst

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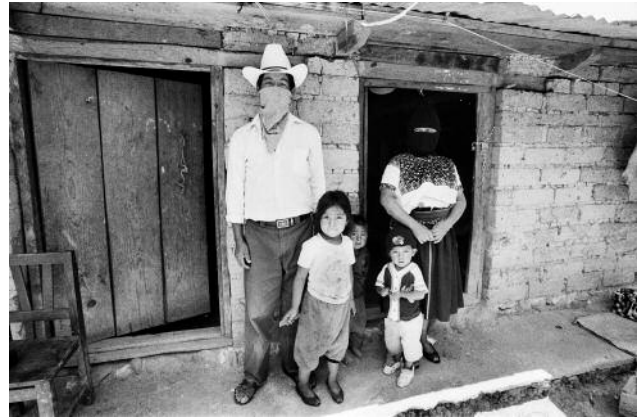
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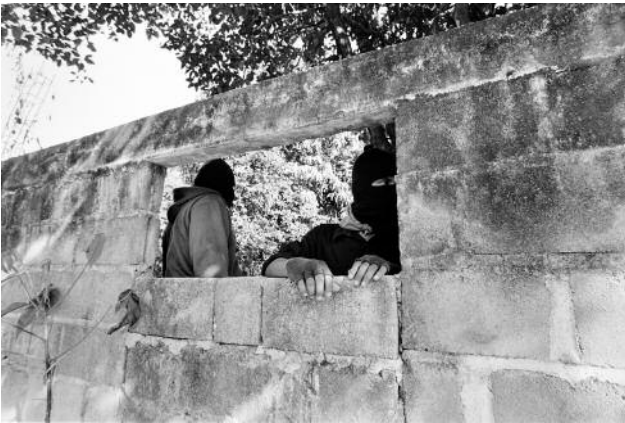
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