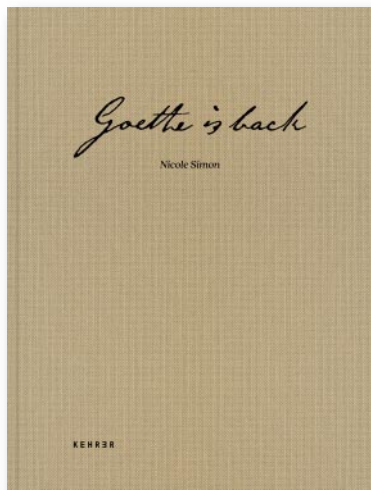




NEW RELEASE 2025

Nicole Simon
Goethe is back
Spuren eines Genies

Texts: Dr. Anja Eichler, Dr. Alexandra Hildebrandt, Prof. Dr. Oliver Jahraus, Nicole Simon with text passages from Goethe's works
 Designed by Kehrer Design (Nicole Gehlen) in collaboration with Nicole Simon

Hardcover

24,5 x 32,4 cm

272 pages

124 duotone illustrations

German

ISBN 978-3-96900-177-6

Euro 80,00

In resonance with Goethe—photographic encounters with a literary legacy

What does it mean to see Johann Wolfgang von Goethe anew—guided by this artistic impulse, German photographer Nicole Simon embarked on a creative dialogue with the literary master between 2000 and 2025.

From Frankfurt, Strasbourg, and Weimar to the sites of his Italian Journey, she traced Goethe's footsteps across the landscapes of his life. In her new photo book *Goethe is Back. Spuren eines Genies*, Simon presents striking black-and-white photographs that cast familiar places in a new light and open a poetic, contemporary pathway into Goethe's world. For the first time, his journeys—outward through cities and landscapes, inward through thought and emotion—become visually tangible within a single work.

From the foreword by **Nicole Simon**:

»Durch die Linse meiner Kamera habe ich versucht, nicht nur zu dokumentieren, sondern den Geist Goethes auf eine Weise zu erfassen, wie es Worte oder Malerei vielleicht nicht vermögen. Die Fotografie, mit ihrer einzigartigen Fähigkeit, Licht, Schatten und flüchtige Momente einzufangen, gab mir die Möglichkeit, eine Essenz seiner Seele an den Orten festzuhalten, die ihn prägen.«

The book's rhythmic composition emphasizes the captivating interplay between Simon's photographic reflections and selected passages from Goethe's writings. Portraits and reflections from notable contemporary figures—including Mario Adorf, Harald Lesch, Otto Rehhagel, and Albrecht Schuch—further expand the conversation, each revealing a personal resonance

with Goethe's ideas. The result is a rich interplay of past and present, where the timeless themes of Goethe's work are reframed through a modern artistic gaze.

With *Goethe is Back. Spuren eines Genies*, Nicole Simon offers a striking convergence of literature, photography, and cultural reflection. The volume opens up a surprisingly contemporary and engaging perspective on one of Europe's greatest thinkers—particularly for younger audiences—and represents a meaningful contribution to the 250 Years of Goethe in Weimar celebrations.

From the book:

In der Idee leben heißt: das Unmögliche
 behandeln als wenn es möglich wäre.

— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Ueber Kunst und Alterthum*.
 fifth volume, second issue, 1825

Nicole Simon is a professionally trained photographer (Bachelor Professional of Photography) working internationally. She has published several portrait photo books and exhibited her work widely. For her series *Stars & Cars*, she portrayed prominent figures from culture, film, music, and sports—including Mika Häkkinen, David Coulthard, Michael Schumacher, Niki Lauda, Matthias Schweighöfer, Uschi Glas, Uwe Ochsenknecht, and many others.

Please note:

These photographs have been cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction exclusively in the context of reviews of the book. Print media: A maximum of 3 images plus the cover may be used in total. Images may not be cropped or used on the cover. Online media: Up to 12 images may be used in a gallery.

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

press@kehrerverlag.com or pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Phone +49 (0) 6221 - 649 20-18 – www.kehrerverlag.com

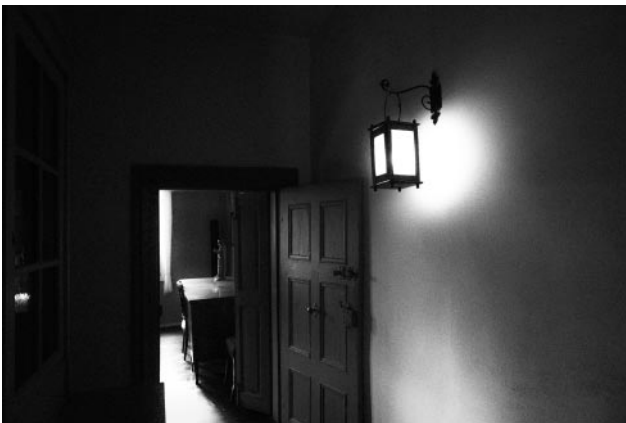
Press Images



01_Goethe-Statue, Place de l'Université, Straßburg © Nicole Simon



02_Jerusalemhaus, Feder und Schreibpult, Wetzlar © Nicole Simon



03_Goethes Wohnhaus, im Hausgang © Nicole Simon



04_Torbole, Gardasee © Nicole Simon



05_Goethes Arbeitszimmer im Gartenhaus, Weimar © Nicole Simon



06_Goethe-Denkmal auf dem Naschmarkt vor der alten Börse in Leipzig
© Nicole Simon



07_Pantheon in Rom, Italienische Reise © Nicole Simon



08_La Rotonda bei Vicenza, Italienische Reise © Nicole Simon



09_Selbstporträt in Goethes Wohnung im heutigen Museum Casa di Goethe © Nicole Simon



10_Scherenschnitte von Cornelia Friederica Christiana und Johann Caspar Goethe im Dichterzimmer, Frankfurt am Main © Nicole Simon



11_Zimmer von Goethes Schwester Cornelia Friederica Christiana, Frankfurt am Main © Nicole Simon



12_Goethe-Büste, Garten des Universitätsschlosses, Straßburg, © Nicole Simon