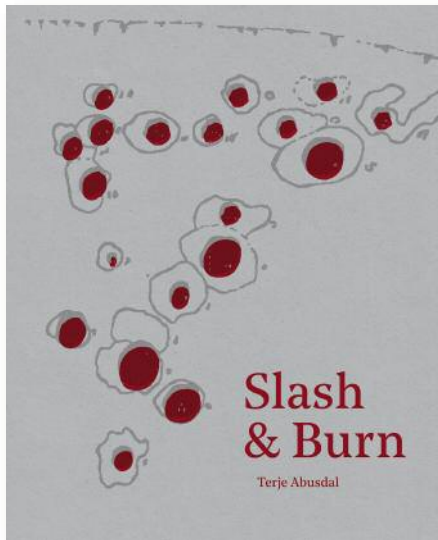


NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Terje Abusdal
Slash & Burn



Text by Terje Abusdal, Birger Nesholen, Aaron Schuman
Designed by Teun van der Heijden
Hardcover, Swiss binding
19,2 x 24 cm
180 pages
96 color and b/w ills.
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This awarded project draws a picture both mysterious and impressive of the Forest Finns, a minority group in Norway that lives in close contact with nature.

Finnskogen – directly translated as »The Forest of the Finns« – is a large, contiguous forest belt along the Norwegian-Swedish border, where farming families from Finland settled in the early 1600s. The immigrants – called Forest Finns – were slash-and-burn farmers. This ancient agricultural method yielded plentiful crops, but required large forested areas as the soil was quickly exhausted. The Forest Finns' understanding of nature was rooted in an Eastern shamanistic tradition, and they are often associated with magic and mystery.

This photographic project draws on these beliefs while investigating what it means to be a Forest Finn today, some 400 years and twelve generations later.

»Throughout Slash & Burn, the conventional clarity of the photographic image is often blurred and obscured – by smoke, mist, vapour, dust and darkness – which transform the solidity of the world we think we know into something much more ethereal and atmospheric. (...)

And in a sense, when it comes to this field, Abusdal's artistic approach is in itself a form of slash-and-burn cultivation, in that through various forms of photographic disorientation, deconstruction and destruction, he creates a new, fertile layer of information and meaning; photographic ashes which are rich with the nutrients needed for newfound notions of personal understanding and cultural identity to grow.«

– from the text by Aaron Schuman

Terje Abusdal (b. 1978) is a visual storyteller working mainly on independent projects in the intersection between fact and fiction. He lives and works in Oslo.

Slash & Burn is the winning book of the Nordic Dummy Award 2017. The prize is awarded annually by Fotogalleriet, Oslo.

It was also the winner of the prestigious Leica Oskar Barnack Award in 2017, finalist at the Luma Rencontres Dummy Book Award 2017, at Unseen Dummy Award 2017, and Alec Soth's Juror's Pick at the Magnum Photography Awards, among others.

Norwegian translations of text and captions in this book are available at www.terjeabusdal.com

Exhibitions (Selection)

Paris Photo 2017, Grand Palais, Paris, France
09.11 - 12.11.2017

Jaipur Photo Festival, Jaipur, India
23.02. – 04.03.2018

Finnskogutstillingen, Forest of the Finns, Norway
09.03. – 11.03.2018

Noorderlicht International Photofestival, Museum Belvedere, Heerenveen, The Netherlands, 23.06. – 23.09.2018

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Press images



01 Woman with shaman drum. Svullrya 2015.
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02 Lindalstorpet farm by Lake Skasen, one of the first farms to be settled in Finniskogen. Grue Finnskog 2016. © Terje Abusdal



03 Portrait of Sissel Borg on the ice at Vermundsjøen. Åsnes Finnskog 2016.
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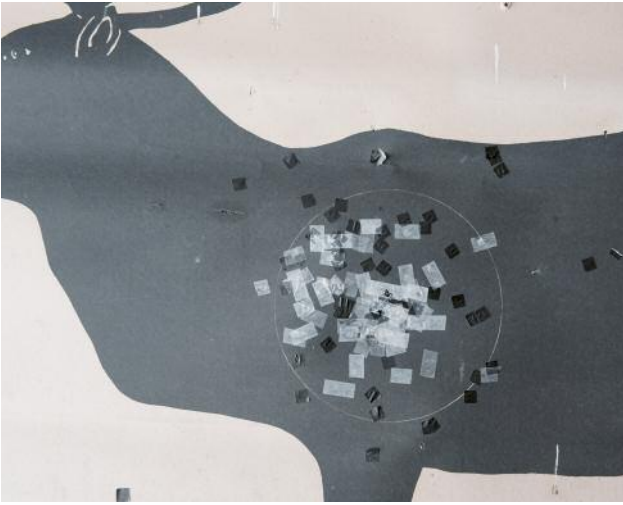
04 Red bush at Lindalstorpet farm. Grue Finnskog 2016.
© Terje Abusdal



05 Border between Sweden (left) and Norway (right) at Moldusen. An approximately twenty-metre wide clearing in the forest separates the two Scandinavian nations, consequently cutting Finniskogen in two. Grue Finnskog 2016.
© Terje Abusdal



06 Portrait of Rahilii, a healer and clairvoyant living in the Swedish part of Finniskogen. Sunne 2016.
© Terje Abusdal



07 Shooting range target. Svullrya 2016.
© Terje Abusdal



08 Portrait of Frank Rismoen (1952–2016). Svullrya 2014.
© Terje Abusdal



09 Abandoned house in Tiveden National Park, one of the southernmost areas populated by Forest Finns. Sweden 2016. © Terje Abusdal



10 Skidmarks in the Savonia region, the epicentre of the Forest Finn migration in the 17th century. Finland 2015. © Terje Abusdal



11 Portrait of Jan Oddvar Storberget from the Karhinen bloodline. Jan lives on Hytjanstorp farm deep in the forest and still milks his cows by hand every morning. His DNA test shows he is one hundred percent Forest Finn – the only person in Norway known to be so. Grue Finnskog 2016. © Terje Abusdal



12 A declaration of independence for the The Republic of Finnskogen has taken place every second weekend in July since 1970. It is a three-day celebration of the region's Finnish heritage, complete with an outdoor theatre play. Svullrya 2016. © Terje Abusdal