

## The Dummy Award

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*The Dummy Award* is the international competition for the best unpublished photobook dummy of the year.

It enables participating photographers to present their books to an international audience and establish contacts with galleries, publishers and festivals. So far, hundreds of books from the shortlist have been exhibited on world tours at countless international photography events, festivals, and exhibition venues.

*The Dummy Award* provides a platform that supports a new generation of photographers and their photobooks driven by curiosity, passion, and creative exploration. We all share a deep engagement with the medium.

Formerly known as *the Kassel Dummy Award*, *the Dummy Award* has been organised by the *PhotoBookMuseum* in Cologne since 2023. Together with *MAS Matbaa* in Istanbul, our printing and publishing partner, we work on maintaining the high quality and reputation of *the Dummy Award* in the future.

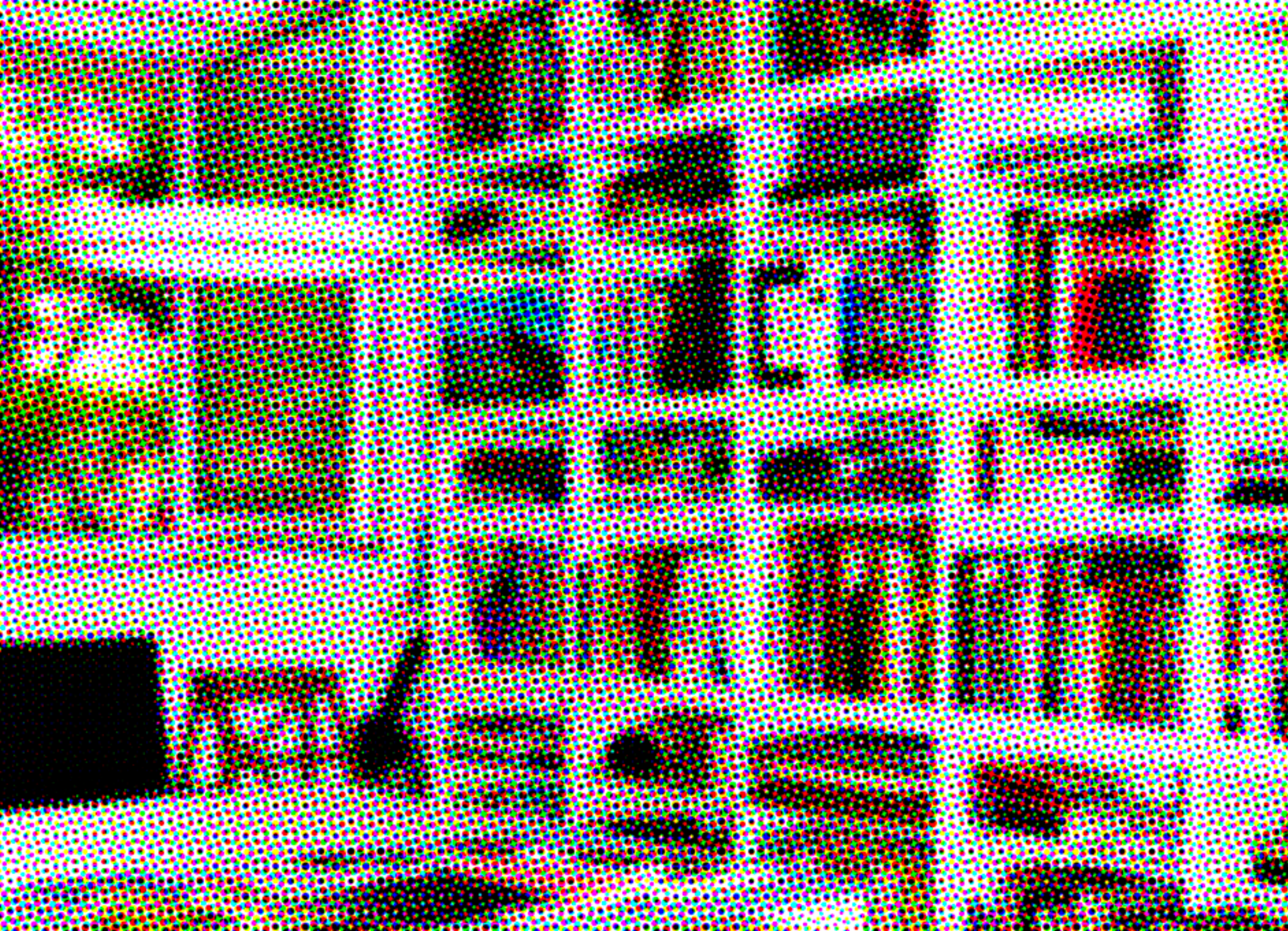
The rules are easy: Each year, we invite all photographers worldwide to take part. From all entries, around 50 books are selected for a shortlist to be exhibited at more than 15 international photography events. Together with the votes of the shortlist jury, each exhibiting venue has a vote, either determined by public vote or by curator's choice. With these votes, 5 winning books will be selected from the shortlist. Out of these five books the *PBM/MAS Prize* is chosen and will be produced and published by *MAS Matbaa*, in cooperation with the *PhotoBookMuseum*. The costs will be fully covered. The other four winning books will receive a production grant for printing their books at *MAS Matbaa*.

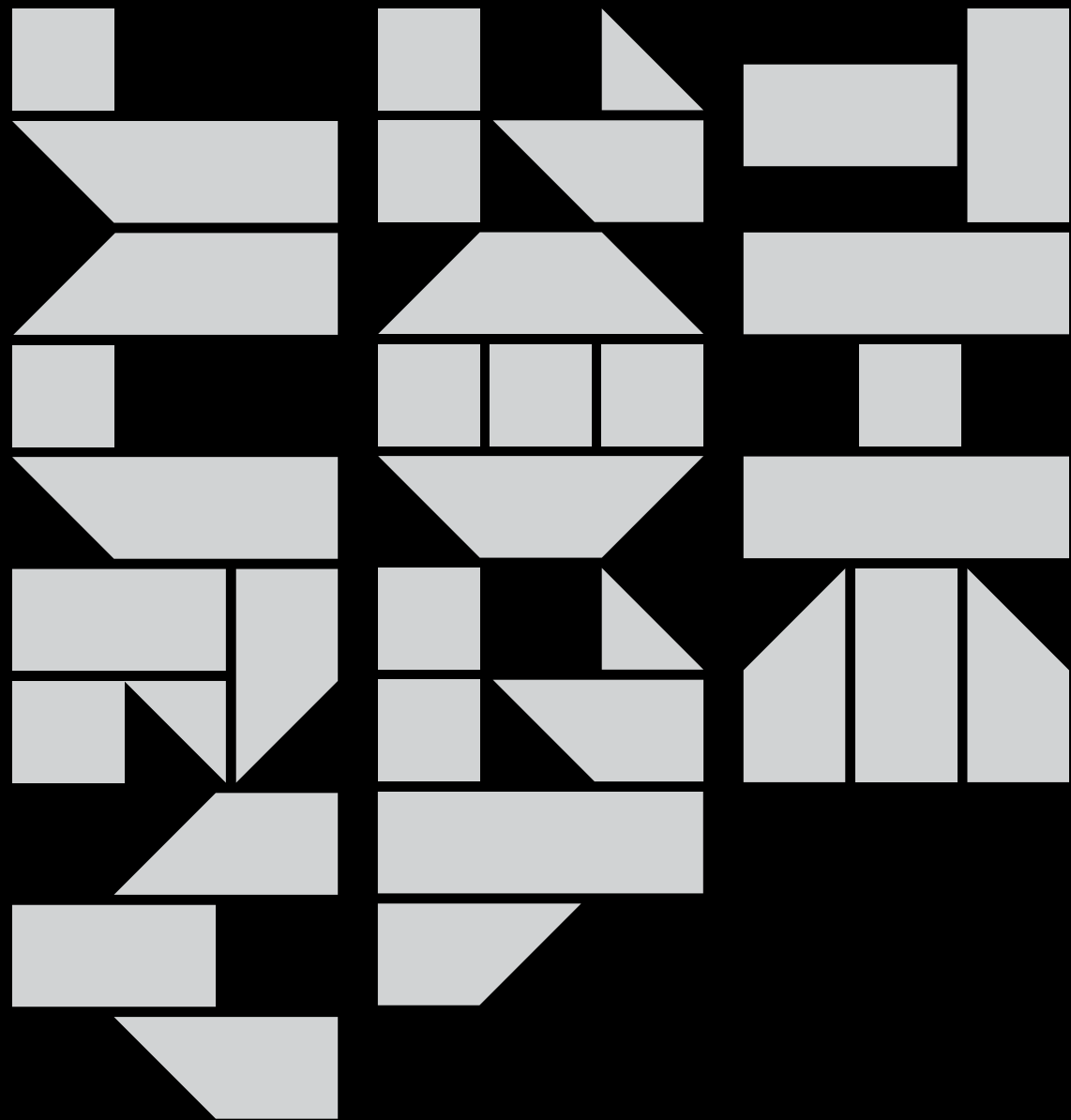
Send us your story!

## The PhotoBookMuseum

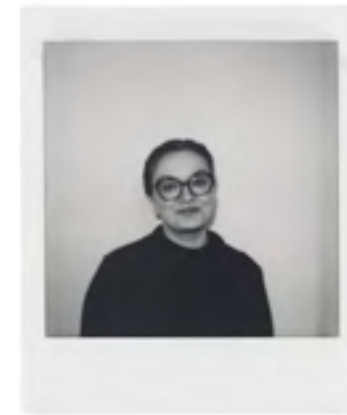
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*The PhotoBookMuseum* was founded in Cologne in 2014 as a non-profit organisation that aims to foster the photobook as a significant photographic medium. It serves as a public platform for collections, exhibitions and events and is committed to research and education on contemporary photobook culture. As a museum of the twenty-first century it offers an inclusive environment for active involvement with the arts to a diverse audience.

Acting as a mobile museum, it uses innovative exhibition strategies and hosts international curatorial co-operations far away from the mainstream of traditional museums. So far, *the PhotoBookMuseum* is the only museum in the world that is exclusively dedicated to the medium of photobooks, focusing on its democratic potential.





The 2026 Jury  
The Photobook Museum [DE]  
15/03/2026



Julia Gelezova [IE]  
photoireland.org  
@julia.gelezova



Frederic Lezmi [DE]  
thephotobookmuseum.com  
@the\_photobookmuseum



Mimi Mollica [IT/UK]  
mimimollica.com  
@mimimollica



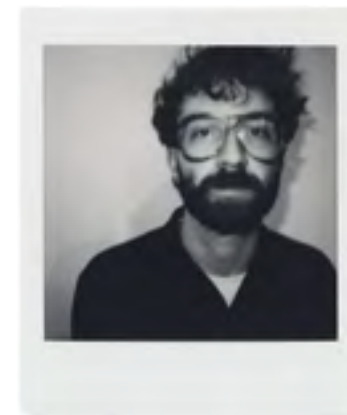
Ufuk Şahin [TR]  
masmat.net  
@ufuksahin



Kathrin Schönegg [DE]  
kathrinschoenegg.de  
@kathrin.schoenegg



Francesca Todde [IT]  
francescatodde.com  
@francescatodde



Tom Booth Woodger [UK]  
tomboothwoodger.com  
@tomboothwoodger

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One Saturday in March, seven of us gathered in a (reportedly) uncharacteristically rainy Cologne to review and make a small selection from a range of about 325 dummy books submitted from (almost) all over the world. It was a true privilege. As one of the jury members, Mimi Mollica, states "Engaging with the content and narratives of many artists is a huge honour and it offers us the privilege to acquire a panoramic view on a variety of topics and approaches to the medium."

We worked from morning until midnight and while this may sound exhausting or daunting to some, it was anything but. We were driven by a shared passion, energy, and curiosity that was first of all sparked by our hosts, the *PhotoBookMuseum*, and infected us all. Outside of the jury period, we had the opportunity to explore the neighbourhood of Körnerstraße led by tour guide extraordinaire Markus Schaden, encountering the local ecosystem of pure creativity and a very palpable community spirit. This energy resonated with us throughout the day and fuelled our fires for the deliberations laying ahead of us.

It is that same deep, genuine enthusiasm and commitment that fuels organisations like *PBM* that also fuels the artistic and photobook communities. A spirit that was evident in the submissions we encountered.

One of the most interesting observations with each year's *Dummy Award*, are the trends that transpire. From this session, the jury notes narrative approaches such as magical realism often incorporated into research-based projects, whereby, as described by jury member Francesca Todde, "the photographer's position resembles that of a sleepwalker who moves partly within reality and partly processes it through the codes of dreams"; artists utilising photography as a form of healing or processing a trauma; research-driven, analytical works, were some of the thematic patterns we observed. Some concerns and topics endure as in previous years, such as those of the personal archive and family stories. While some projects addressed current politics, such as power and social structures (though not so much on technology), the jury were surprised to see much less of the conversation extending beyond personal anxieties and fears, and into a global context, compared to previous years.

Regarding the aesthetic and material presentation, the jury unanimously recognised the impressive evolution of the dummy over the years. Even though the dummy is a prototype, usually handmade in very few editions, many submissions demonstrated a strong connection between form and content and a high level of refinement, with many books completed in collaboration with other editors and designers. This raises a counterpoint, whereby these books were seen as "too polished and ready to publish, and therefore maybe not as expressive as a dummy could or should be" as jury member Tom Booth Woodger noted.

In the end, after hours of conversation and, at times, spirited debate, the jury are happy to present the final strong shortlist that we believe reflects and captures the richness of contemporary artistic practice and bookmaking today.

→ Julia Gelezova + the jury of *the Dummy Award 2026*

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→ **Julia Gelezova [IE]** is artistic director at PhotoIreland and co-editor at *OVER Journal*. PhotoIreland is dedicated to stimulating a critical dialogue around photography in Ireland and to internationally promoting the work of Irish-based artists.

→ **Frederic Lezmi [DE]** is a photographer, designer and photobook curator. He is artistic director of The PhotoBookMuseum in Cologne, which he co-founded together with Markus Schaden in 2014.

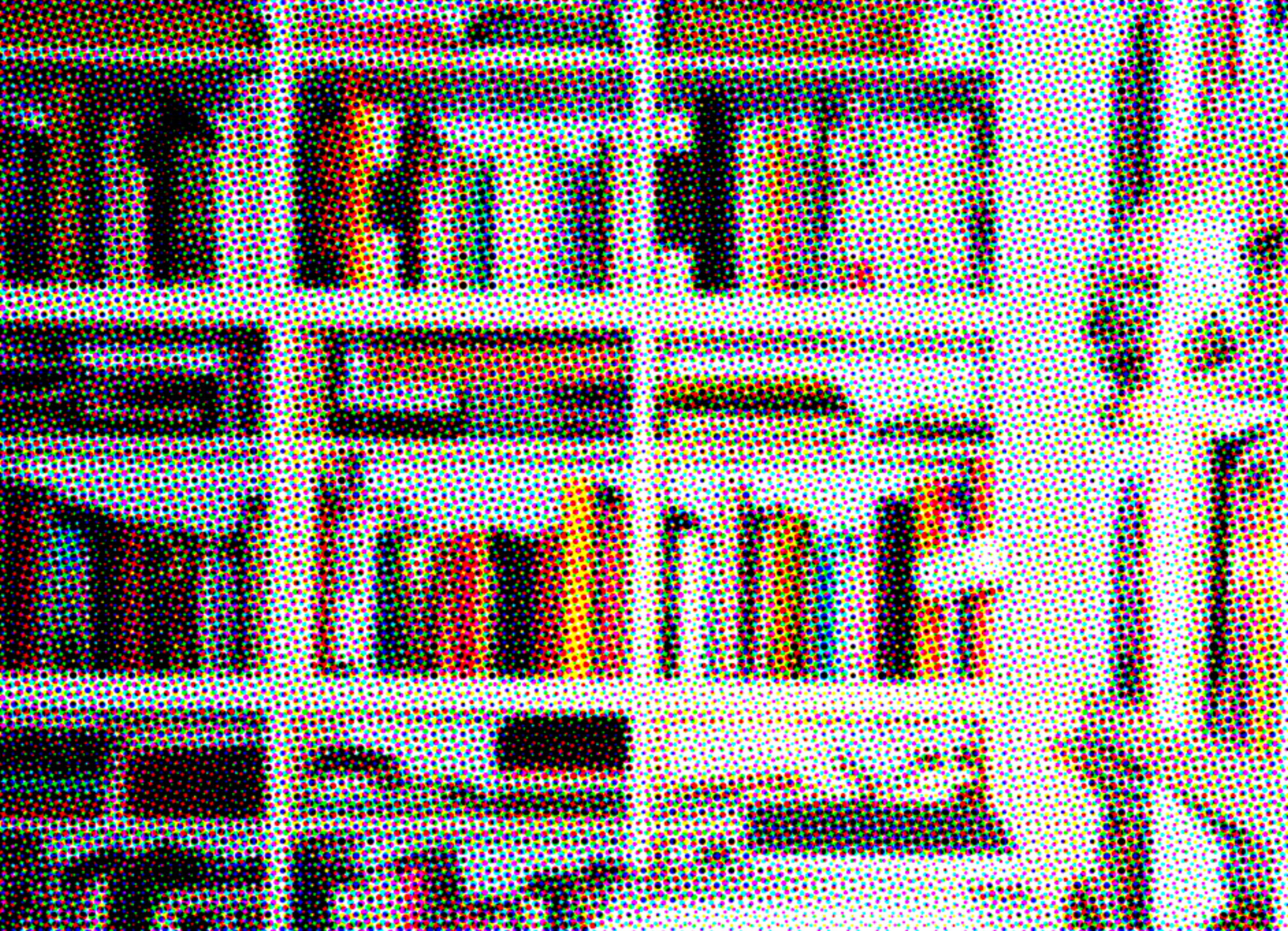
→ **Mimi Mollica [IT/UK]** is a Sicilian-born, London-based photographer whose work explores identity, environment and the social transformations that shape contemporary life. He is the author of *Terra Nostra* (Dewi Lewis, 2017), *East London Up Close* (HMP 2020) and *Moon City* (Dewi Lewis, 2025).

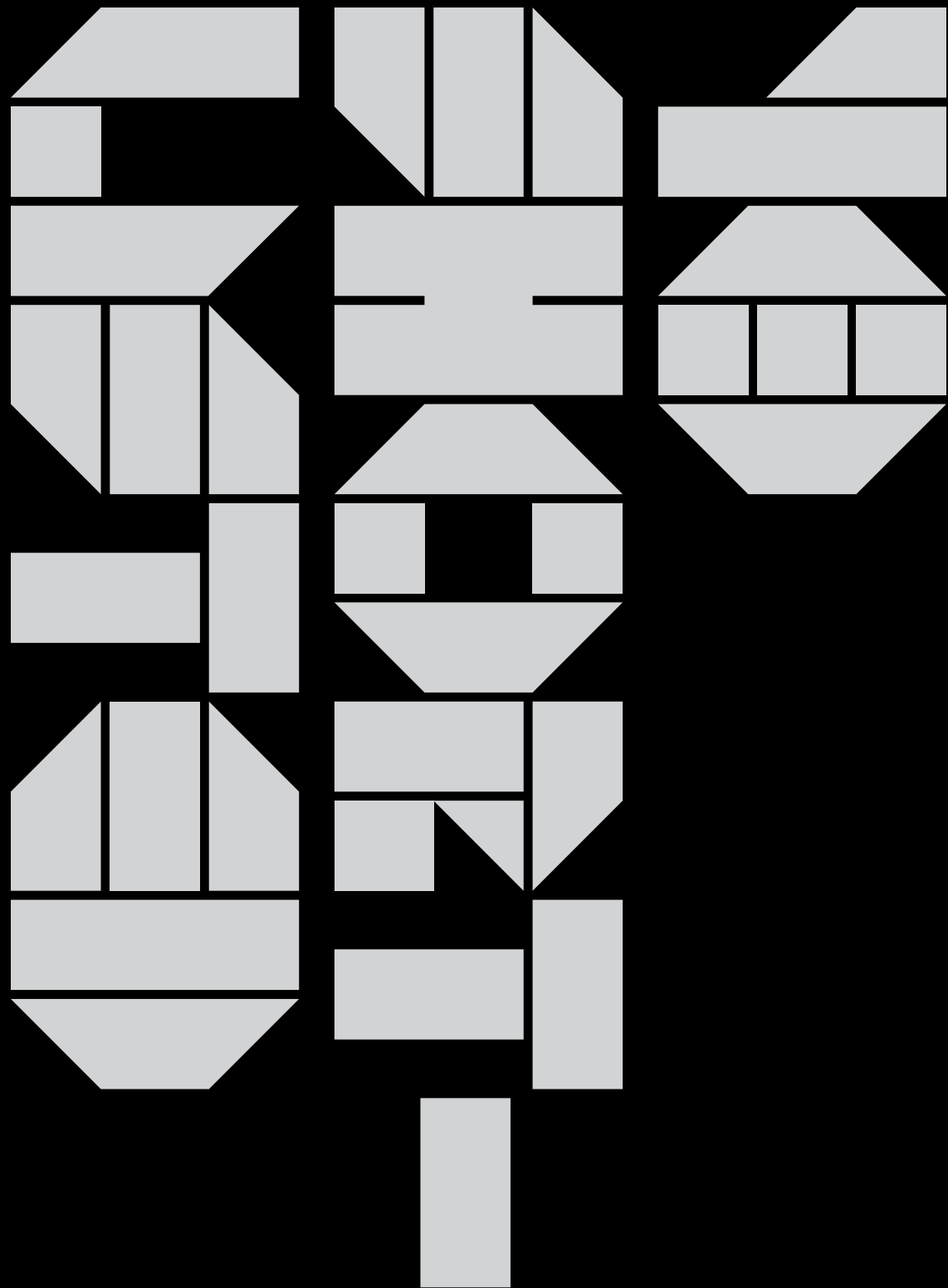
→ **Ufuk Şahin [TR]** Since 2007, he has been part of the core team at MAS printing house as the second-generation manager and partner. In 2010, he founded MASA, a publishing house; which has since published more than 40 books.

→ **Kathrin Schöneegg [DE]** is head of the Photography Department at the München Stadtmuseum and thus responsible for the oldest collection dedicated to photography in Germany. As a freelance curator, she has conceived exhibitions for the Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie, among others. From 2019-2023 she was co-head of program at C/O Berlin.

→ **Francesca Todde [IT]** is a photographer and book designer. She works mainly on personal long-term projects about cultural aspects of the relationship between human and non-human. Together with artist Luca Reffo, she co-founded the art book publisher and design studio *Départ Pour l'Image*.

→ **Tom Booth Woodger [UK]** is head of publishing at Bluecoat Press and co-founder of *Besides Press*. For Tom, book design is both collaboration and response: working together with artists to make a publication relies upon exhausting all possibilities in order to arrive at a best possible final form for the work to exist in.





#01224  
Antigoni Papantoni [GR]  
*Kairos*

17,5 × 23 cm, 200 pp  
Open spine, softcover,  
dust jacket

@antigoni\_papantoni



#01230  
Salome Erni [CH]  
*Interesting Things*

16 × 22 cm, 140 pp  
Hand-bound, softcover

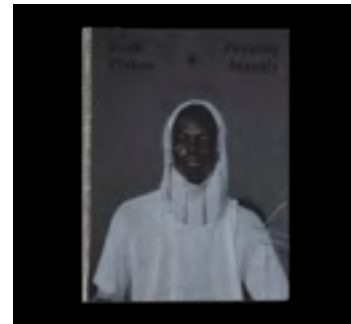
@ernisalome



#01236  
Sachiko Saito [JP]  
*Not now but one day*

18,5 × 25 cm, 188 pp  
Open spine, flush-cut  
hardcover

@komsms



#01243  
Calvin Hein & Kay Kwabia [DE/GH]  
*Dead Fishes & Praying Mantis*

17,5 × 23,5 cm, 238 pp  
Perfect binding, softcover

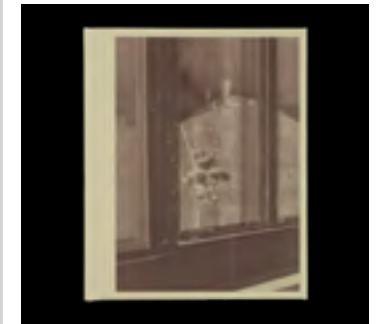
@calvinhein.gh  
@kaykwabia



#01259  
Ingrid Hernández [MX]  
*Sedimentaciones*

23,5 × 32 cm, 144 pp  
Open spine

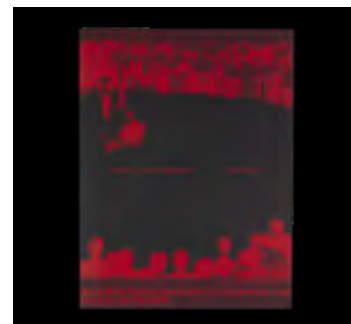
@ingridjuliana



#01261  
Dániel Halász [HU]  
*Falu*

18 × 22 cm, 128 pp  
Hardcover

@danielhalasz\_photography



#01280  
Gabriel Corredor Aristizábal [CO]  
*Piedemonte*

23,5 × 31 cm, 210 pp  
OTA binding, softcover

@gabrielcorredorfoto



#01288  
Mauricio Limón de León [MX/ES]  
*El primero que ría*

19,5 × 28 cm, 256 pp  
Flush-cut hardcover

@mauriciolimon

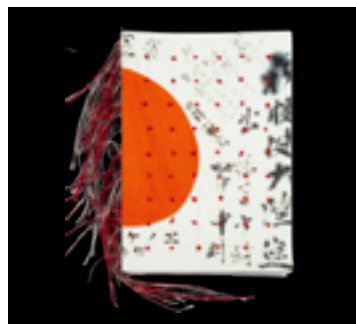


#01292  
Sushant Kadam [IN]  
*City Birds*

14 × 20,5 cm, 112 pp  
Perfect binding, die-cut  
softcover, dust jacket

@sushantvkadam





#01293  
Yoshikatsu Fujii [JP]  
*Five Before the Fall*

18,5 × 26,5 cm, 318 pp  
Hand-bound, hardcover

@yoshikatsufujii



#01304  
Pha Croissant [DE/TH]  
*Soft Power*

20,5 × 24,5 cm, 58 pp  
Open spine, hardcover

@phasphantasie



#01309  
Uschi Groos [DE]  
*Dear parents, please send me  
bacon and Pervitin*  
23 × 29,5 cm, 92 pp  
Bound with screws,  
softcover

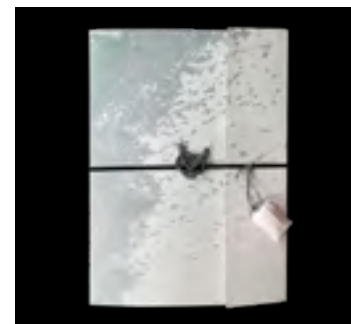
@uschigroos



#01343  
Alexander Sharr [RU]  
*The Offer You Can't Refuse*

15 × 29 cm, 136 pp  
Flush-cut hardcover,  
PVC jacket

@alexander\_\_sharr



#01349  
Lieh Sugai [JP]  
*Kaikou*

18 × 25,5 cm, 78 pp  
Open spine, softcover

@liehsugai



#01356  
Theresa Wißmann [DE]  
*Vorwiegend festkochend*

17 × 24 cm, 104 pp  
Open spine, softcover

@theresawissmann.de



#01315  
Deb Ko [TW]  
*We All Like Mountains*

11 × 18 cm, 104 pp  
Open spine, softcover

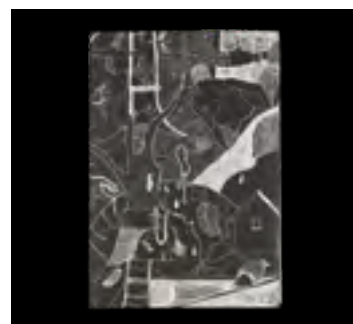
@deb.ko\_



#01317  
Jasmin Pebal [AT]  
*Hello Friends*

19,5 × 25 cm, 56 pp  
Open spine, die-cut  
hardcover, sleeve

@pebal.jpg



#01323  
Andrea Agostini [IT]  
*Nòstos*

18 × 26,5 cm, 244 pp  
Open spine, hardcover,  
dust jacket

@callmeagush



#01359  
Nico Fritzenschaft [DE]  
*Konstellationen*

25 × 42 cm, 76 pp  
Saddle stitched,  
softcover

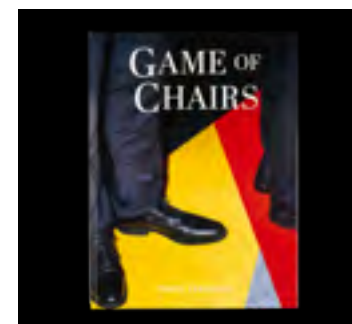
@nicofritzenschaft



#01365  
Alessandro Silverj [IT]  
*Presence*

16 × 23 cm, 176 pp  
Hardcover, slipcase

@alessandrosilverj



#01376  
Nikita Teryoshin [DE]  
*Game of Chairs*

23,5 × 31 cm, 188 pp  
Hardcover

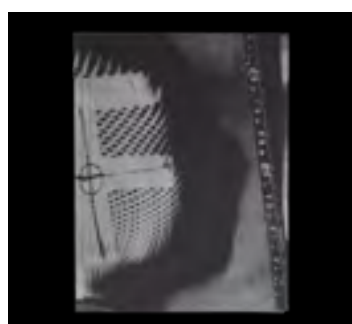
@teryoshi



#01329  
Ayame Ono [JP]  
*Re: Stone Paper Scissors*

13 × 19 cm, 280 pp  
Perfect binding,  
softcover, PVC jacket,  
inserted sheets

@metchon



#01330  
Nora Handsley [DE]  
*Good Luck Around Every Turn*

20,5 × 26,5 cm, 192 pp  
Softcover with flaps

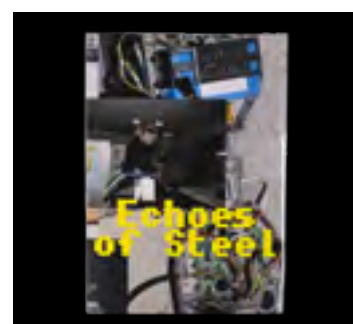
@norahandsley



#01335  
Yogan Muller [FR]  
*JPM*

15,5 × 23 cm, 156 pp  
Open spine,  
softcover with flaps

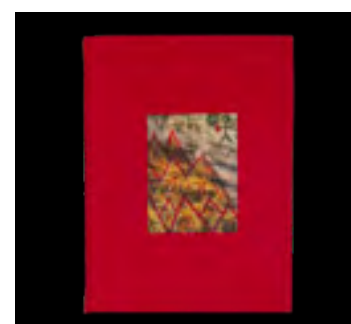
@yoganmuller



#01382  
Aline Savioz [CH/FR]  
*Echoes of Steel*

21,5 × 30 cm, 138 pp  
Softcover, PVC jacket

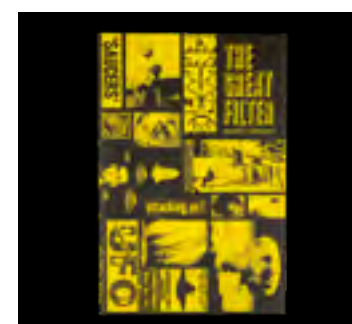
@saviozal



#01385  
Stefan Nieland [DE]  
*Megaincendio*

18,5 × 24,5 cm, 200 pp  
Hardcover

@stefan\_nieland



#01395  
Marco Gehlhar [IT/DE]  
*The Great Filter*

20,5 × 31 cm, 134 pp  
Perfect binding,  
softcover, dust jacket

@marcogehlhar





#01402  
Gaorui Zhang [CN]  
*MASC 4 MASC*

22,5 × 28 cm, 148 pp  
Bound with screws,  
softcover

@elio\_zzzzz



#01412  
Bertrand Fleuret [FR]  
*The Trip*

20 × 27 cm, 204 pp  
Japanese stab binding,  
softcover, slipcase

@bertrandfleuret



#01415  
Maximilian Neretin [DE]  
*Known Unknown*

24 × 31 cm, 116 pp  
Flush-cut hardcover

@maximilianneretin



#01476  
Enka Springub [DE]  
*Freedom Money*

21 × 30 cm, 224 pp  
Hardcover

@enka.springub



#01485  
Massimo Mastroiello [IT]  
*Il Mare Siamo Noi*

21,5 × 29,5 cm, 210 pp  
Softcover with archival  
fasteners

@mmastroiello



#01486  
Marvin Dreblow [DE]  
*Schweinehaltung*

21 × 28,5 cm, 180 pp  
Hardcover

@marvin\_dreblow



#01420  
Sonia Klostermair [DE]  
*Camouflage*

13,5 × 10 cm, 33 pp  
Hardcover, one-sheet-  
book

@soniaapplefotografie



#01422  
Caspar Sessler [DE/CH]  
*Supercharged Landscapes*

31 × 24,5 cm, 60 pp  
Japanese-fold, Swiss  
binding, hardcover

@casparsessler



#01444  
Yue Hu [CN]  
*Humanscape: Tianjin 39.0851° N,  
117.1994° E*

35 × 50 cm, 88 pp  
Newspaper

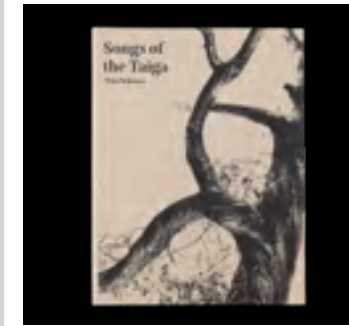
@hi\_huyue



#01498  
Mark Peterman [US]  
*This is Nighttown*

22 × 28 cm, 20 pp  
Leporello, hardcover

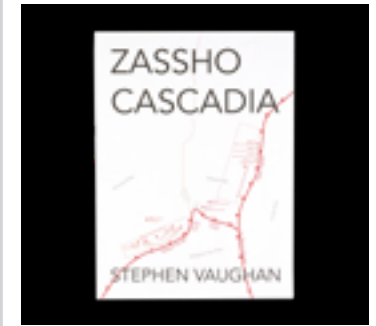
@markpeterman



#01500  
Nora Schwarz, [DE]  
*Songs of the Taiga*

18,5 × 24,5 cm, 188 pp  
Hardcover

@noraschwarz\_



#01502  
Stephen Vaughan [GB]  
*Zassho Cascadia*

22 × 30 cm, 312 pp  
Open spine, softcover  
with flaps

@\_stephenvaughan



#01453  
David Farrell [IE]  
*Lugo Lament*

21 × 26 cm, 212 pp  
Hardcover

davidfarrell.org



#01458  
Soledad Soler Quesada &  
Carlota Ayub Larrouse [ES/AR]  
*About Love and Power*

@solsolenoide



#01459  
Mark van den Brink [NL]  
*Minox Files Archive 1994 - 2025*

18 × 21 cm, 2000 pp  
Softcover in slipcase

@markvandenbrinkphotography



#01504  
Evelyn Kett [DE]  
*Kein Holzstück mehr*

26 × 33,5 cm, 194 pp  
3D printed hardcover

@evelyn.kett



#01517  
Yago Soria Díaz [ES]  
*Fukú no Unagi*

18,5 × 25,5 cm, 140 pp  
Hardcover

@yagosodizz

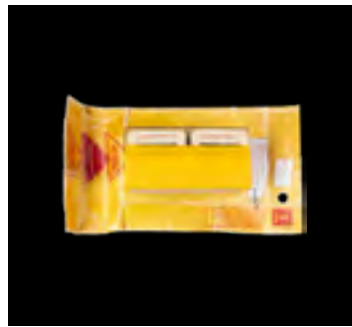


#01519  
Krishanu Chatterjee [IN]  
*After the Dust Settles*

16 × 21 cm, 384 pp  
Hardcover, dust jacket

@elninolaninal66





#01525  
Jan Richard Heinicke [DE]  
*Radiant Grounds - The Case of  
the Kvanebjerg Project*  
21,5 × 28 cm, 96 pp  
Wire-O binding,  
softcover with a flap



@jr\_heinicke

#01533  
Stephen Wilson [IE]  
*View From Other Side*  
5 × 5 cm, 36 pp  
Hand-sewn pages,  
plastic box

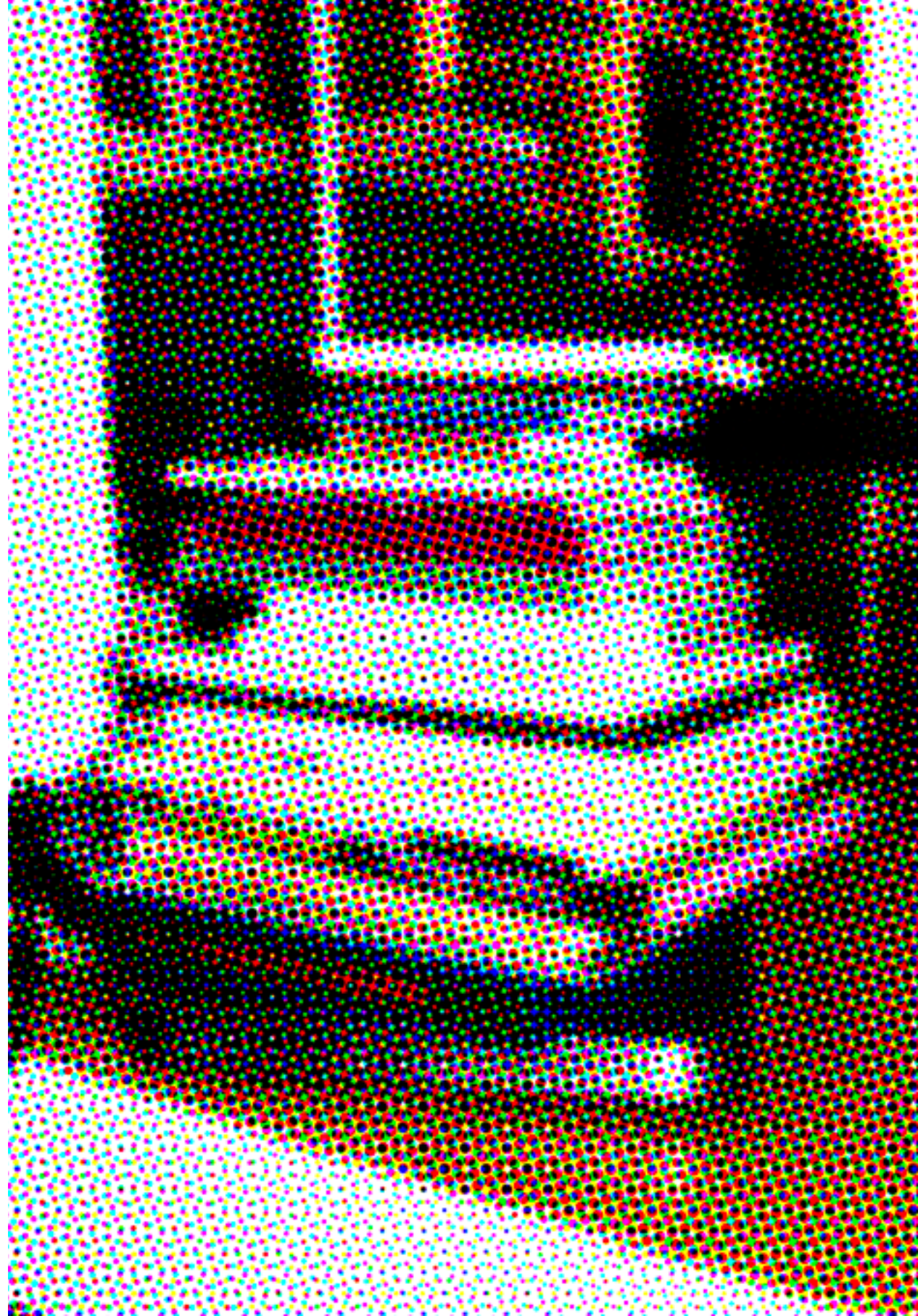


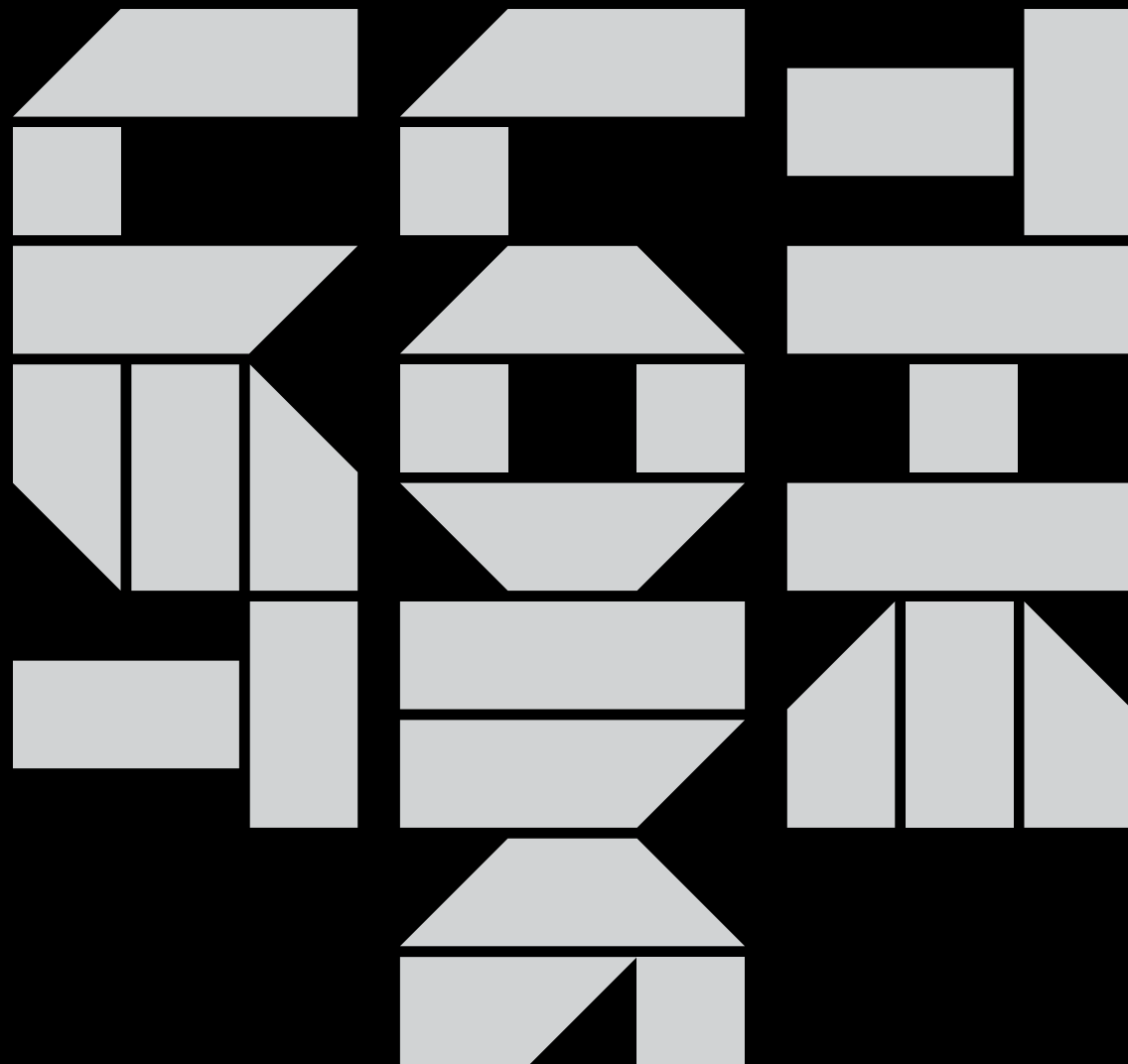
@stephenwilsonphoto

#01552  
Jana Šturdíková [SK]  
*House*  
22,5 × 30,5 cm, 163 pp  
Flush-cut hardcover



@jana\_sturdikova





#01222 - Rebecca Dubuis [CH]  
*208 Grace St.*

#01223 - Natalie Ershova & Maksim Mikhaltsov [RU]  
*Fifth Quarter*

#01224 - Antigoni Papantoni [GR]  
*Kairos*

#01225 - Birgitte Munk [DK]  
*The Tent*

#01226 - Aleksandra Ivanina [RU]  
*Traum eines Käfers*

#01227 - Sebastian Steveniers [BE]  
*BosHghts / Live Free*

#01229 - Javier Perez [US]  
*Fata Morgana*

#01230 - Salome Erni [CH]  
*Interesting Things*

#01231 - Hans-Joachim Petzak [DE]  
*aufgelesen/2. Saudade im Blut*

#01232 - Isabelle Lock [GB]  
*Close Yet Far*

#01233 - Ilan Weiss [BE]  
*Her Kasteel*

#01234 - Kylie Harrigan [US]  
*Following My Father*

#01235 - Emilia Rosa Pizzonia [IT]  
*The body of Jane*

#01236 - Sachiko Saito [JP]  
*Not now but one day*

#01237 - Lisa Cramer [AU]  
*FLOWER under ether*

#01238 - Lera Kirdiapkina [RU]  
*Out of Order*

#01239 - Keco Yamamoto [JP]  
*Flow*

#01240 - Christoph Kersten [DE]  
*Beton*

#01242 - Lena Niehusen & Jasmin Carbor [DE]  
*Endlichkeit*

#01243 - Calvin Hein & Kay Kwabia [DE]  
*Dead Fishes and Praying Mantis*

#01244 - Ronja Falkenbach [DE]  
*Cat on a leash*

#01245 - Dieter La Noutelle [DE]  
*Vibrations*

#01246 - Natalia Ershova [RU]  
*ImPlanting*

#01247 - Petr Scheuer [CZ]  
*Kaleidoscope of Life*

#01249 - Gilles Mercier [FR]  
*L'élégance de vos absences /  
Vol 1 Comme un vivant porte bonheur*

#01250 - Jan Kräutle [DE]  
*Struktur*

#01251 - Klára Nováčková [CZ]  
*Archaeologia*

#01254 - Zexuan Zeng [CN]  
*The Internal Crusade*

#01255 - Keith Mason [GB]  
*The Last Harvest*

#01256 - Alexey Belov [RU]  
*Consolation B*

#01257 - Keita Kojima [JP]  
*Virus Wor(l)d*

#01259 - Ingrid Hernández [MX]  
*Sedimentaciones*

#01260 - Gerald Borchers [DE]  
*Auch mit Deinen Augen ...*

#01261 - Daniel Halasz [HU]  
*Falu*

#01262 - Christos Sotiropoulos [GR] <i>Kuzuvochero</i>					
#01263 - Valeriya Dymbitskaya [RU] <i>There is no Image</i>					
#01264 - Maria Giorgi [IT] <i>(al-hamdu li-lláh)</i>				#01316 - Ida Weber [DE] <i>Sils Maria</i>	
#01265 - Carl Bühring [DE] <i>Down by the Creek</i>				#01317 - Jasmin Pebal [AT] <i>Hello Friends</i>	
#01267 - Mengyu Yu [CN] <i>MUSE</i>			#01298 - Dieter Matthes [DE] <i>Im Vorübergehen</i>	#01319 - Pilou Barge [FR] <i>Tranches de Prague</i>	
#01269 - Antonio Cau [IT] <i>TO.NY</i>			#01299 - Mara Fischer [DE] <i>Islands And Cities</i>	#01320 - Hans Rothe [DE] <i>Maquis</i>	
#01270 - Morag Hall [GB] <i>In Transit</i>			#01300 - Agnes Zimmermann [DE] <i>Ich sehe was, was du nicht siehst</i>	#01321 - Yuri Goto [JP] <i>Love knot</i>	
#01271 - Kankan Zhang [CN] <i>Felt</i>		#01289 - Bonchul Goo [KR] <i>Have We Met Before?</i>	#01301 - Sophia Kyrou [DE] <i>Everything is Strange but Natural</i>	#01322 - Paola Bormioli [IT] <i>Take note, passers-by</i>	
#01272 - Masayuki Wataya [JP] <i>Unexplored</i>		#01290 - Michael Hagen [DE] <i>Pentalogy: "Tempus Fugit Poesis: Lights being realized"</i>	#01302 - Manami Uetake [JP] <i>The end's approach comes over my mind as clouds cover the light</i>	#01323 - Andrea Agostini [IT] <i>Nòstos</i>	
#01274 - Kento Nobuta [JP] <i>The Carrier</i>	#01282 - Thomas Nondh Jansen [NL] <i>Pictures from home.</i>	#01291 - Bill Nickels [US] <i>Paris</i>	#01303 - Yoko Kusano [JP] <i>Portrait</i>	#01324 - Zana Riazi [FR] <i>L'extension du Territoire</i>	
#01275 - Antonio Rosato [IT] <i>USSARO</i>	#01283 - Annalena Joschko [DE] <i>Schlaflied für eine vergangenes Ich</i>	#01292 - Sushant Kadam [IN] <i>City Birds</i>	#01304 - Pha Croissant [DE] <i>Soft Power</i>	#01325 - Paolo Adolfo Folli [IT] <i>A volte capita</i>	
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#01280 - Gabriel E. Corredor Aristizábal [CO] Piedemonte	#01287 - Holger Krischke, Thomas Haubner & Students of Kunstakademie Münster [DE] Grauzone	#01296 - Silva Bingaz [TR] <i>Coast</i>	#01309 - Uschi Groos [DE] <i>Dear parents, please send me bacon and Pervitin</i>	#01314 - Jia Peng [CN] <i>Mama</i>	#01329 - Ayame Ono [JP] <i>Re: Stone Paper Scissors</i>
#01281 - Emma Holtmann [DE] <i>Too Close</i>	#01288 - Mauricio Limón de León [MX] <i>El primero que ría (The First One to Laugh)</i>	#01297 - Véronique Kolber [LU] <i>Deceptively Quiet</i>	#01310 - Uta Genilke [DE] <i>Der Garten meiner Mutter</i>	#01315 - Deb Ko [TW] <i>We All Like Mountains</i>	#01330 - Nora Handsley [DE] <i>Good Luck Around Every Turn</i>

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#01410 - Luca Zoe Pompe [DE] <i>Ich mag gar keine Oliven. Eigentlich.</i>	#01423 - Nele Linsmaier [DE] <i>Club</i>		#01438 - Sumin Shin [KR] <i>0o0</i>	#01443 - Max Iris [DE] <i>Millions To Go</i>
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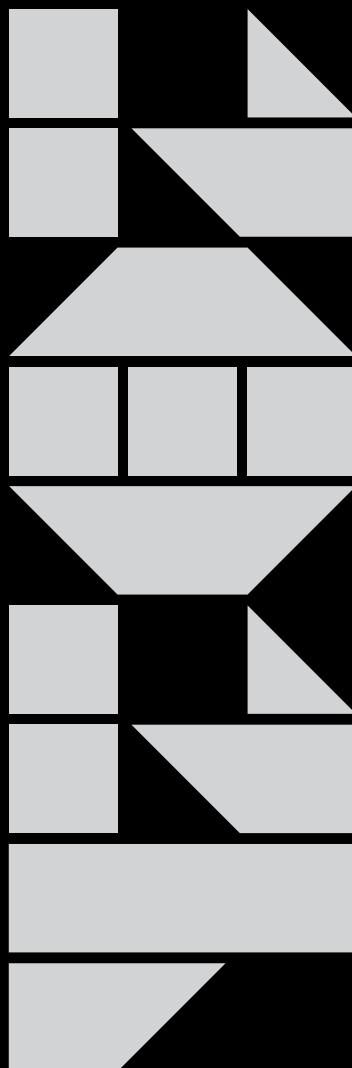
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