# Reviews

Exhibitions

'Day Dreaming About The Good Times?'
Paul Reas
Impressions Gallery
Ffotogallery
22 March - 10 May

Breaking the Code of Silence Letizia Battaglia Open Eye Gallery 22 February - 4 May

Photographs 1975 - 2012 Philip-Lorca diCorcia The Hepworth, Wakefield 14 February - 1 June

Landscapes Tom Wood Mostyn 18 Jan - 6 April

Hannah Höch Whitechapel Gallery 15 January - 23 March

Paul Gaffney / Michal Iwanowski Ffotogallery 7 February - 8 March Books

Sarah Jones Violette Editions ISBN: 9781900828437 212 pages £40.00

What is a Photograph? Carol Squiers (ed.) Prestel ISBN: 9783791353517 256 pages £35.00

Drone: The Automated Image Paul Wombell (ed.) Le Mois de la Photo à Montréal ISBN: 9783866788039 232 pages \$40.00

Empire
Jon Tonks
Dewi Lewis
ISBN: 9781907893490
188 pages £30.00

Short Book Reviews

CrossOver: Photography of Science Christin Müller (ed.) Spector Books ISBN: 9783944669175 112 pages €25.50

Still Here Lydia Goldblatt Hatje Cantz ISBN 9783775736282 92 pages £25.00

Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan Rita Leistner Intellect ISBN 9781783200306 144 pages £30.00

Tales from the
City of Gold
Jason Larkin
Kehrer Verlag
ISBN: 9783868284164
96 pages £32.00

The Home Front Melanie Friend Dewi Lewis ISBN: 9781907893414 96 pages £25.00

Le Crowbar Tom Hunter Here Press ISBN: 9780957472457 96 pages £30.00

Reading Photographs: An Introduction to the Theory of Meaning in Images Richard Salkeld Bloomsbury ISBN: 9782940411894 184 pages £23.99 Self Published Books

Miriam O'Connor The Legacy Project www.miriamoconnor.com

Lorenzo Vitturi Dalston Anatomy www.lorenzovitturi.com

Jessica Bishopp see what i see www.gambiamad.com

Roelof Bakker & Jane Wildgoose Strong Room www.neg-press.com

Carlos Spottorno The Pigs www.thepigs.eu

Tereza Zelenkova The Absence of Myth www.terezazelenkova.com

Edward Newton Flowers and Weeds www.highchair-editions.co.uk

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ffmann and Kelley Wilder, it takes point the micro (inner) and macro that photography made visible ent of its invention through its use ope and telescope. There are five ns: Insight explores insects, plants, tc., while Outlook addresses the of the moon and stars as well as graphic exploration. As Frizot a series of public lectures on neld in Paris in 1891-92, the list nomical photography, medical and aphy, military photography, phy, chronophotography and aphy. These are further explored c sections that follow: Selfself-reflection and in the central provides an Overview. n throughout are works made by a ntemporary artist-photographers entally explore the scientific eir work. These include Ruff, 1, Danuser and Schonfeld. The rapher Düelle Lüski challenges the spective of conventional cameras. work, Doubleblind is an exploration of the labour, complex traces of the work of a geneticist. no startling images. This is unlike temporary scientific images that the 'wow' response thus affirming view that scientific and factual contributes much to '[s]pectacle, to ion and to voyeurism...and only a itical understanding of the social rgely muted tonal qualities of the book remind us that scientific images have a long

it is the art works that make us see

plex, confusing and labour-

intensive the world refracted through the lens of photography is.

Roberta McGrath

### A New War a New Medium

Looking for Marshall McLuhan in Afghanistan, Rita Leistner

This is a curious and interesting book. Part manifesto, part diary and part photobook, it reflects on Leistner's own use of the 'new' technology of Hipstamatic iphone photographs that she shot in the Afghanistan war in 2011. Informed by the media theories of Marshall McLuhan, the book also develops a thesis on the function of the smart phone as a logical development of older technologies. As McLuhan had argued, the *forms* of old technologies (the typewriter keyboard, clock, camera, etc) become the contents of the new technology, here the smart phone.

Rita Leistner was 'embedded' as a photographer with the US marines in Afghanistan as a member of Basetrack in 2011. If you Google 'basetrack' you can find their work online, the usual social media feeds of facebook, vimeo and flickr. A Canadian organisation set up to link 'safe zones' to 'conflict zones' using social media. Most striking is the 'Hipsterising' effect of Leistner's pictures from Afghanistan. A new war means a new medium she seems to argue. Leistner's square hipster pictures differ in form and content to the usual media currency of war torn conflict images. She argues that the hipster effect creates a different way of seeing. Indeed this is true, the retro 'old film' look makes the colours muted and mutated. Phone cameras



also require a certain fixed pose to be adopted by the photographer to avoid shutter shake. The photographer becomes a tripod, which usually creates a calm relation to the subject matter. When you combine these two features, calmness and colour shifts, the pictures in Afghanistan become weirdly linked back to the history of war photography. In a sense, the anachronism of the process imposes itself on the logic of the Afghanistan war: high-tech meets low tech in a battle for control.

David Bate

### **Toxic Beauty**

Tales from the City of Gold, Jason Larkin

The 'city of gold' is Johannesburg, South Africa. Gold was discovered there in 1886 and its extraction was pursued relentlessly for more than a century. Most of the gold has gone, but around two hundred and sixty waste dumps

Platoon Leader Lt. Jason Blydell shows around Operations Officer Maj Nathaniel Clayton. With them are the ANP (Afghan National Police) Commander Balazar (with beard) and another ANA soldier.

# SOURCE

