

2 NEW BOOKS: New York by Numbers and Amsterdam by Numbers



In New York by Numbers and Amsterdam by Numbers we see the work of an artist who draws on the city and modern urban environment for inspiration. The books are a curious combination of artistic and anthropological study, employing a simple system and method. During a three-week period, the artist went in search of people with a number on their clothing between 1 and 100. The resulting photo series is a combination of system and coincidence. The number is always the reason for the photo to be taken; what it shows is down to coincidence.

Eijkelboom's artistic activities centre on the observation of people in big cities. It is a working method that bears a certain relationship to the figure of the flâneur and the situationist, and is an attempt to intensify the urban experience.

The book shows that it is possible to order apparent urban chaos along lines that have not previously been visible, whereby the surprise lies not in the unique moment but in the repetition and patterns within these moments; the camera still proves an ideal instrument to reveal this.

The photos do not attempt to embellish reality; rather they say 'this is what it looks like and we'll have to make do with it,' which in this case is more disturbing and unfathomable than seeking beauty and aesthetics.

The numbers made their appearance as a means of showing admiration for a sporting hero, but have developed to become a fashion phenomenon in their own right. And what are we seeing? Have all these numbers been consciously chosen and do they have a special significance to the wearer? Or is it contemporary power that is being revealed, which no longer oppresses but produces regularities? And are numbers a possible new marketing tool?

AMSTERDAM BY NUMBERS and NEW YORK BY NUMBERS on sale book and photo

A special signed and numbered 100-copy edition will be available in combination with a photo (483 x 329 mm) corresponding to the number of the book, at a price of € 200.- excl.19% btw. As well as being available for purchase individually, all 100 photos can be purchased in a luxury boxed set. However, each photo will be printed in a limited edition of six. (more information by e-mail)

Signed copies of New York by Numbers on sale at € 24.-.

Erik Kessels is the book's designer and Hans Eijkelboom is the maker.

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