

12/2018

Jitka Hanzlová

Cotton Rose

Main description

In 2004 Jitka Hanzlová was invited by EU–Japan Fest to take part in the project European Eyes on Japan, which has been inviting European photographers to Japan since 1999 to photograph people and life in the country's various prefectures. *Cotton Rose* is the result of two years of travels in Gifú prefecture where Hanzlová visited cities and villages, attended ceremonies, learned Japanese and even entered into conversation with Tajima cattle, in an effort to first get to know the country, rural life, and traditions before mingling with the anonymous crowds in the cities. Nature being an important aspect even of modern Japanese culture, Hanzlová focused on the intrinsic connection between the people and their environment in a country of seemingly extreme opposites. The frail and tender cotton rose — a plant she discovered at the very beginning of her stay which, against all odds, reemerges in spring after surviving the harsh winters — came to symbolize for her the Japanese soul: fragile and tenacious at once.

Biography

Jitka Hanzlová, born 1958 in the former CSSR/Czech Republic, escaped to Germany in 1982. Between 1987 and 1994 she studied visual communication at Essen University with focus on photography. She has been awarded several photography awards, including the BMW—Paris Photo Prize 2007. Venues for solo exhibitions of her work have included, among others, the Museum Folkwang, Essen, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Fundacion MAPFRE, Madrid, and the National Gallery of Edinburgh.

Bibliography

Jitka Hanzlová

Cotton Rose

English

Book design: Jitka Hanzlová

88 pages

46 photographs

22.5 x 29 cm

Clothbound

€ 35.00

ISBN 978-3-86930-127-3