

05/2018

Robert Frank
London /Wales

Main description

"War is over; the heroic French population reaffirms superiority. Love, Paris, and Flowers but London was black, white, and gray, the elegance, the style, all present in front of always changing fog. Then I met a man from Wales talking about the Miners and I had read *How Green Was My Valley*. This became my only try to make a 'Story'." Robert Frank

London/Wales brings together two distinct bodies of work to reveal a new understanding of Franks contribution to the history of photography. Juxtaposing the world of money and the world of work in post-war England, Frank photographed London bankers, workers, and children, and Welsh coal miners and their families. These images poetically evoke relationships between the classes during a time of change in Britain. Setting a significant documentary precedent for Franks best known work, *The Americans*, *London/Wales* demonstrates the artists early interest in social commentary, the narrative potential of photographic sequencing and his innovative use of the expressionistic qualities of the medium. Featuring 90 black and white photographs, *London/Wales* tells a timeless story of cities, people, and institutions in transition through emotional, evocative images while revealing Franks struggle to forge a new form of poetic narrative photography.

Biography

Robert Frank was born in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1924 and emigrated to the United States in 1947. He is best known for his seminal book *The Americans*, first published in 1959, which gave rise to a distinctly new form of photobooks, and his experimental film *Pull My Daisy*, made in 1959. Frank's other important projects include the books *Black White and Things* (1954), *Lines of My Hand* (1972), and the film *Cocksucker Blues for the Rolling Stones* (1972). He divides his time between New York City and Nova Scotia, Canada.

Bibliography

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Edited by Philip Brookman

London / Wales

English

1. edition 03/2007

2. edition 05/2018

Book design: Wyndham Boulter, Zurich

128 pages

19.2 x 24 cm

Hardback / Clothbound

€ 38.00

ISBN 978-3-86521-362-4