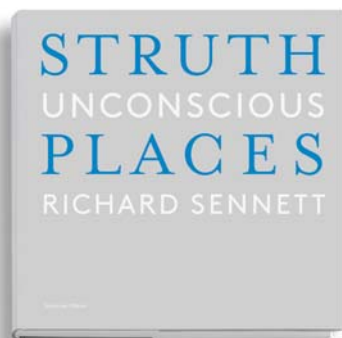


München, August 2012



PRESS RELEASE

Architecture between the everyday and the spectacular

Thomas Struth: Streets of the World

With an essay by Richard Sennett

Thomas Struth
Unconscious Places
Essay by Richard Sennett
264 pages, 228 plates
in color and duotone
ISBN 978-3-8296-0618-9
English Edition
€ 88.-, US \$ 78.-

Streets are the stages of the Great Theatre of the World. In his new collection, Thomas Struth (born 1954) unveils, for the first time, his perhaps most important and certainly most extensive and long-standing series, his street photographs. “An aura of stillness and repose suffused the photographs, even those made in honking, shoving of New York,” is how Richard Sennett remembers his first impression of Thomas Struth’s street photographs. The famous American cultural sociologist penned the essay accompanying this new volume of Struth’s work, *Unconscious Places*. The shots are part of a work complex that Thomas Struth embarked on in his student days and has continued to build on for more than three decades. His first street photographs were taken in 1976; other views of architecture, squares, residential streets, and building complexes followed in Cologne, Munich, London, Brussels, Rome and Paris, as well as on trips outside Europe, to Japan, China, Peru, Korea, Shanghai, and the United States.

With 228 photographs of 53 locations in 16 countries, our book *Unconscious Places* shows, for the first time, a comprehensive selection of this long-term visual project that Struth pursued in parallel with his famous family portraits, museum pictures, and natural paradises.

As indicated by the title, Struth is not interested in avenues and promenades or famous boulevards. He is not looking for the landmarks and special vantage points on sightseeing tours that define the official cliché of a town or city. Instead, he directs his camera at the kind of places that are usually suppressed from conscious everyday perception – ordinary, matter-of-course places. People are seldom to be seen in his photographs. The absence of people frees up our gaze for the contours of architecture and the way it is decorated, focusing our perception on the urban structures as the social locations of urban life. Struth’s stringently and carefully composed photographs provoke a change of perspective: they transform users into viewers and confront us with sections of the constructed world that is usually experienced rather than looked at.

The artist’s visual intention, one he pursues with great sensitivity to the public domain, is to approach a global phenomenon. The abstract structure of the city, which is seldom specifically registered by our consciousness but is to be found throughout the world, becomes an apparition aesthetically evoked in his pictures. With great precision and an artist’s eye for the rich details of the reality he has chanced upon, Struth commits himself to a poetic realism that casts a spell over the viewer.

The book *Unconscious Places* is appearing in parallel with the Venice Architecture Biennial (August 29 through November 25, 2012), in which Thomas Struth is taking part at the invitation of star architect David Chipperfield.

*“Struth waits until
a place appears to
reveal itself to him
in repose.”*

Richard Sennett

Unconscious Places von

Beijing
 Berlin
 Brussels
 Charleroi
 Chicago
 Dallas
 Dessau
 Dortmund
 Düsseldorf
 Duisburg
 Edingburgh
 Erfurt
 Essen
 Frankfurt
 Geneva
 Hamburg
 Hannover
 Hongkong
 Honolulu
 Kiwado
 Cologne
 Leipzig
 Leverkusen
 Lima
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 Los Angeles
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 Manzhouli
 Markt Zell
 Munich
 Münster
 Naples
 New York City
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 Palermo
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 Pyongyang
 Rome
 San Francisco
 San Vincente de Canete
 Sao Paulo
 Seoul
 Shanghai
 St. Petersburg
 Tokyo
 Ulsan
 Venice
 Weimar
 Weissenfels
 Wittenberg
 Wuhan
bis Yamaguchi

Thomas Struth, born in Geldern near Düsseldorf in 1954, attended the Düsseldorf State Academy of Art from 1973 through 1980, initially studying Painting with Gerhard Richter and later Photography with Bernd Becher. Today he is one of the internationally best-known artists of German extraction. His work has been exhibited worldwide, in venues such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, P.S.1 New York, Museo del Prado in Madrid, Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf and, most recently, Whitechapel Art Gallery in London. Struth lives in Berlin and New York.

Richard Sennett, born in Chicago in 1943, is one of the USA's leading cultural sociologists, philosopher, historian and the author of numerous books. His main areas of research are urban life and man as a modern individual. He teaches at New York University and at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His most recent publication is *Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation*. Sennett has been awarded numerous prizes, including the Spinoza Prize, The European Craft Prize, the Hegel Prize and the Helen and Robert Lynd Award for Sociology.

Thomas Struth bei Schirmer/Mosel



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