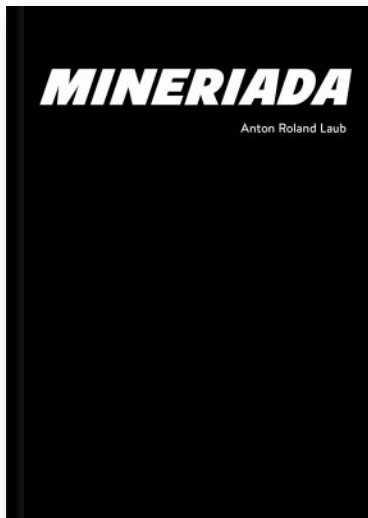


NEW RELEASE NOVEMBER 2022



## Anton Roland Laub *Mineriada*

Texts by Lotte Laub, Sonia Voss  
 Designed by Kehrer Design (Laura Pecoroni)  
 Hardcover  
 16,5 x 22,7 cm  
 160 pages  
 10 color and 60 b/w ill.  
 English, French, German  
 ISBN 978-3-96900-085-4  
 Euro 29,00 / US\$ 38.00

### Romania in 1990: The brutal attack by hired groups of thuggish miners on the pro-European opposition

*Mineriada* by Anton Roland Laub addresses the division of a society that led Romania into a decade of isolation. The starting point are ten Polaroids taken by his father depicting the havoc in Bucharest in June 1990. The work examines the sites of the events and the unspoken trauma of the physical violence when hired groups of thuggish miners brutally bludgeoned the pro-European opposition. Building on research into justice discourse, Laub raises awareness of recursive events in history in a world that is once again increasingly polarized.

Following *Mobile Churches* (2017) and *Last Christmas (of Ceaușescu)* (2020), *Mineriada* is the third part of Anton Roland Laub's Romania trilogy, published by Kehrer Verlag.

Supported by the Visual Arts Research Grant of the Senate Department for Culture and Europe, Berlin and the publication grant from the Stiftung Kulturwerk, Bonn.

From the text *Saturn Devours its Children* by **Lotte Laub**:

*After World War I, Aloys Laub turned his back on the impoverished coal-mining region of Saarlouis, and settled in the thriving Bucharest of the 1920s. Seventy years later, his grandson Anton Roland Laub witnessed how miners, incited by the government, hunted down students and demonstrators in the streets of the Romanian capital, people who had hoped to live in a democracy and in freedom. The events entered Romania's collective consciousness as the "Mineriada" and have still not been processed by the judiciary to this day.*

*Burnt-out buses, flames in the background, plumes of smoke rising into the air, passers-by making their way through an area of devastation. These private Polaroid shots show University Square (Piața Universității) in Bucharest. They were taken by Frederic Laub, Anton Roland Laub's father, on 13 June 1990, hours before assembled gangs*

*of thuggish miners overran the streets, in the government's words "to restore order".*

*"Mineriada" is a sarcastic term combining the Romanian word "miner" (meaning the same as the English word "miner") with the ending "-iada", as in "olimpiada". The third mineriad took place in Bucharest from 13–15 June 1990, and was the bloodiest of six mineriads. Some 10,000–12,000 miners were brought to Bucharest from the Jiu Valley in Transylvania. Days of violent clashes left more than 900 people injured and 67 dead – many more than the official death count of four that was published by the government after the event.*

From the text *Night Train* by **Sonia Voss**:

*Films move forward like trains in the night, says François Truffaut in Day for Night, making an incisive analogy between the long succession of train carriages passing through a dark landscape and the implacable forward motion of stories, which – in contrast to real life – tolerate no down time. One could say the same thing about memory – except that memory involves a backward motion: its tension is directed towards an often uncertain past rather than a pre-determined dénouement. In the night, as in the clatter of memories, time loses its measurable and regular dimension. It jumps from one image to the next, mindless of the years that separate them; it manifests itself in sudden apparitions and accelerations. Memories surface without warning, deformed by their speed, transformed by virtue of inscrutable connections and bifurcations. Sometimes they derail; at any moment the past and the present may collide.*

**Anton Roland Laub**, born and raised in Bucharest, studied at the Weißensee Art Academy and the Neue Schule für Fotografie, Berlin.

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 Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany  
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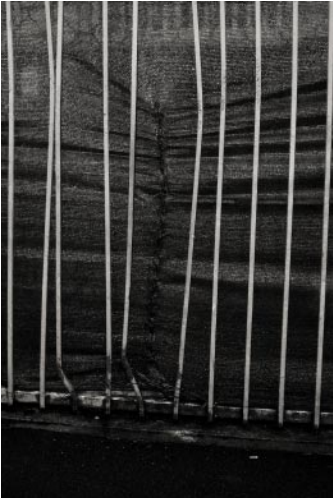
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