



NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG

Christopher Taylor
Steinholt
A Story of the Origin of Names

Texts by Christopher Taylor, Monica Dematté
 Poem by Birgir Andrésen
 Designed by Kehrer Design (Martin Lutz)
 Half-coth hardcover, 22 x 22 cm
 160 pages, 24 page textleaflet
 66 duotone and 6 b/w ills.
 English / Icelandic / French / Chinese
 ISBN 978-3-86828-766-0
 Euro 44,00 / GBP 38.00

Series about the photographer's wife's family history set in the stunningly beautiful but also challenging environment of northeast Iceland

Steinholt is a house built in 1929 by my wife's paternal grandparents in the fishing village of Þórshöfn, in the remote northeast corner of Iceland. My wife is named Álfheiður. As a child, she would travel from Reykjavík each summer to stay with her grandparents. Those months, spent in the company of the grandmother after whom she is named, are among her happiest childhood memories. The closeness of their relationship and the unexpected circumstances by which we came to acquire this small house, are where the photographic project begins. Informed by stories and written accounts of local history, I have retraced the movements of my wife's ancestors as they crisscrossed this austere yet beautiful region, in search of work or a place to live. The resulting images are an attempt to interpret the past and investigate the origin of names as a means to evoke a personalised view on the value of memory, and spirit of place. (Christopher Taylor)

The series *Steinholt – A Story of the Origin of Names*, alludes to the transmission of names in order to perpetuate memory. The photographer has created his own personal fresco here, in some cases intending to recall details of the past, but which manages to go far beyond the sole evocation of bygone events. Even when portraying specific places and experiences, these images do not require anecdotal explanation. The natural environment in these areas, so ill suited to sustaining human life, retains a beauty and purity that is difficult to find in more hospitable settings. Dwellings, be they ruins or recently abandoned, make up for meagre

furnishings with breathtaking views from unhinged windows. In the digital era of fast, distracted communication, Christopher continues to use old, heavy analogue cameras and black-and-white roll film that he develops and prints himself. The months spent immersed in this landscape, exposed to the elements, are followed by long days in his darkroom in the South of France, where his time is consumed in sealing these memories on paper, sustained by endless cups of tea. The photographer's Icelandic summers, swathed in boundless light, are thus followed by long periods of self-imposed darkness. It is through this rigorous regime that his images are distilled, delivered as hymns to beauty in which blacks and whites of endless hue lend an ethereal quality to these snapshots of life. (From the text by Monica Dematté)

A trained zoologist and self taught photographer, **Christopher Taylor** (b. 1958) has traveled extensively in France, Iceland, India, and China. He has held critically acclaimed solo and group exhibitions in Paris, Madrid, London, Beijing, Delhi, Mumbai, and Calcutta, and is represented by Galerie Camera Obscura, Paris, Tasveer, India, and Ofoto & Moartspace, China.

Exhibitions

National Museum of Iceland, Reykjavík
 February 11 – May 28, 2017

Galerie Camera Obscura, Paris, Fall 2017

Please note:

These photographs have been copyright cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction in the context of reviews of the book only.
 No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped.

For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher's press office:

Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com or
 Rebecca Rössling, rebecca.roessling@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25 | Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
 www.kehrerverlag.com | www.artbooksheidelberg.com

Press images



1. Skinnalón, Melrakkaslétta (2012)
© Christopher Taylor



2. Álfheiður holding her grandmothers mirror (2014)
© Christopher Taylor



3. Tungusel, Þistilfjörður (2014)
© Christopher Taylor



4. Svalbarð church, Þistilfjörður (2011)
© Christopher Taylor



5. Raven, Harðbakur, Melrakkaslétta (2012)
© Christopher Taylor



6. Heljardalsfjöll (2013)
© Christopher Taylor



7. Stefan from Laxárdalur (2014)
© Christopher Taylor



8. Near Halldórskot, Búrfellsheiði (2012)
© Christopher Taylor



9 Sandeels (2016)
© Christopher Taylor



10 Leader sheep, Svalbarð, Þistilfjörður (2014)
© Christopher Taylor



11 Svalbarð church, Þistilfjörður (2014)
© Christopher Taylor



12 Guðrún & Salka, Steinholt (2015)
© Christopher Taylor