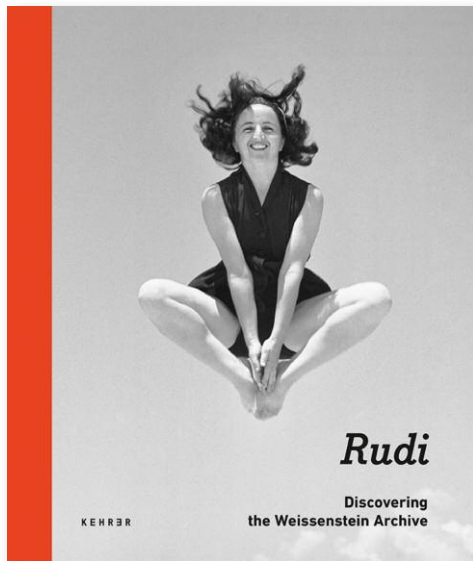


NEW RELEASE KEHRER VERLAG



Rudi **Discovering the Weissenstein Archive**

Edited by Anna-Patricia Kahn, Ben Peter & Michal Amram

Text by Amir Kliger

Interview with Ben Peter by Anna-Patricia Kahn

Designed by Michal Amram

Hardcover

24 x 28 cm

160 pages

96 duotone ill.

English

ISBN 978-3-86828-745-5

Euro 45,00 / US\$ 50.00 / GBP 40.00

Many previously unpublished images from the archive of the renowned Israeli photographer Rudi Weissenstein

Rudi Weissenstein (1910–1992) was the most prominent chronicler of everyday life in the young state of Israel and his photographs are essential to understanding the country's social history.

Born in what is now the Czech Republic, Weissenstein studied photography in Vienna. He worked as a press photographer before emigrating to Palestine in 1936 where he married Miriam Arnstein (1913 – 2011). They took over the Pri-Or PhotoHouse in Tel Aviv in 1940 and developed it into a renowned cultural institution. Weissenstein received numerous awards for his work including the first prize at the Moscow International Photography Exhibition.

The PhotoHouse is now run by Weissenstein's grandson Ben Peter and holds more than one million negatives. The archive is being reborn and as it celebrates its 80th anniversary many of its highlights are being published here for the first time. Weissenstein's estate is represented by °CLAIR Gallery, its director Anna-Patricia Kahn is one of this book's editors.

»From day to day, morning till night, using precise photographic techniques, Rudi preserved with his camera the development of the Land of Israel from its onset in 1936, to its birth in 1948, until the end of the 1970s.«

»By creating this book, Ben hoped to piece together a puzzle, a portrait of one very particular man embodied in the photographs he took. For the first time, the common theme of the chosen photos is not an attempt to document the manifestation of a practical Zionism; but to recreate Rudi, the man.«

»In this book, the connection among the images forms an associative, emotional, mysterious thread that offers a view devoid of ideological attribution. It is a present-day view leading to the myths of yore, but a more introspective one, towards a timeless twilight zone of the soul.«

»...his work raises the discussion of morality and ethics, as does, by definition, any complex and challenging work of art. In the balance of power between circumstance and choice, questioning an artist's political duty towards the period in which he worked, Rudi made his choice powerfully: he created illusions with his photographs, into which he imbued a dream-like force, an insistent denial of reality, like an unattainable hallucination.«

— from the text by Amir Kliger

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Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25, Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20

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