



OBSCURA

121 VIEWS

& and each glimpse through the pinhole camera opens up a new view of the world.



WHAT IS OBSCURA



OBSCURA is a book of analogue contemporary pinhole photography that includes pictures taken by artists from the international photo communities, such as flickr or behance.

OBSCURA is also a website, which we use as a dialogue and information platform, as well as to keep the community informed about the progress of the book project. After the publication, we will also use this website to provide additional content on the photographers and their works.



WHY NOW

500.000 search results, no photo book.

The Google consultation reveals an interesting contradiction: “Pinhole Photography” produces about 500.000 search results, and countless forums and groups are dedicated to this subject and share their work. But a photo book which reflects this appetite for the analogue experiment doesn’t seem to exist yet. And while we love digital, we’d also love to leaf through a real book.

The pinhole camera shows the unseen.

At a time when almost every detail of photography is controllable, documentable and thus, repeatable, when our own views on reality are being restricted by the flood of digital imagery, the pinhole camera represents an alternative. Lenseless photography is always subject to chance, the uncontrollable combination of material, light, time, perspective and dynamics.

Pinhole photographs offer an unusual, absorbing and at times unsettling aesthetic experience. Pictures that are less documentation but leave room for subjective points of view. Pictures that teach us to recalibrate our own view on our personal reality.

We’re longing for a photo book. And we firmly believe that many others are as well.

THE ARTISTS



Our call for submissions is open to the entire international photo community working with lenseless photography. We would like to invite the participation of both, established photographers whose work we already admire, as well as encourage pinhole newcomers to experiment with this technique.

With this in mind, it is our main goal to turn this photo collection into more than a sum of its parts, some sort of printable version of Flickr. Instead, we want to reflect on the broad spectrum of working methods, cameras, materials and artistic view points by offering 11 abstract concepts for visual interpretation.

THE STRUCTURE

OBSCURA has 11 chapters:

- 01 DAS MONSTRÖSE / THE MONSTROUS
- 02 DAS MENSCHLICHE / THE HUMAN
- 03 DIE VERLOCKUNG / THE TEMPTATION
- 04 DAS DIFFUSE / THE NEBULOUS
- 05 DAS DYNAMISCHE / THE ENERGETIC
- 06 DIE STRENGE / THE RIGOR
- 07 DIE HEITERKEIT / THE SERENE
- 08 DAS UNHEIMLICHE / THE EERIE
- 09 DIE EWIGKEIT / THE ETERNAL
- 10 DIE WIRRNIS / THE CHAOTIC
- 11 DIE KAPUTTEN / THE FRAGMENTED

For each chapter we are looking for 11 photographs that interpret its title visually. Whether lyric or hard, abstract or concrete, tight or loose, the „echo chamber” around each chapter title calls for diverse associations and interpretations. And we are looking forward to each single one, to a variety of artists and subjective views, and the positive tension this creates.

Each chapter of the book is also characterized by a short paragraph of poetry and staged by a photograph.

THE VISUAL IDEA

Photographs that wow us also deserve a visual frame that puts them in the right perspective. Along with the “word art”, we developed a visual poetry to frame and highlight the different chapters.

From reading lamps to Christmas lights, fireworks, cell phone displays to bike head lights and neon tubes: The different sources of artificial light each have their very own character, their own anatomy. A character that’s usually hidden from both the human eye and the camera lense.

Lenseless cameras capture light in a different way: without the focus lense, the pinhole camera is uniquely insensitive to light, and only captures the direct, but not the indirect light. We made use of this specific characteristic to approach the “personalities” of the different light sources: By first photographing them – in part static, part dynamic – and then giving them a graphic form through b/w inversion.

These light drawings will illustrate our I I chapters, but don’t determine the visual language of the chapter.

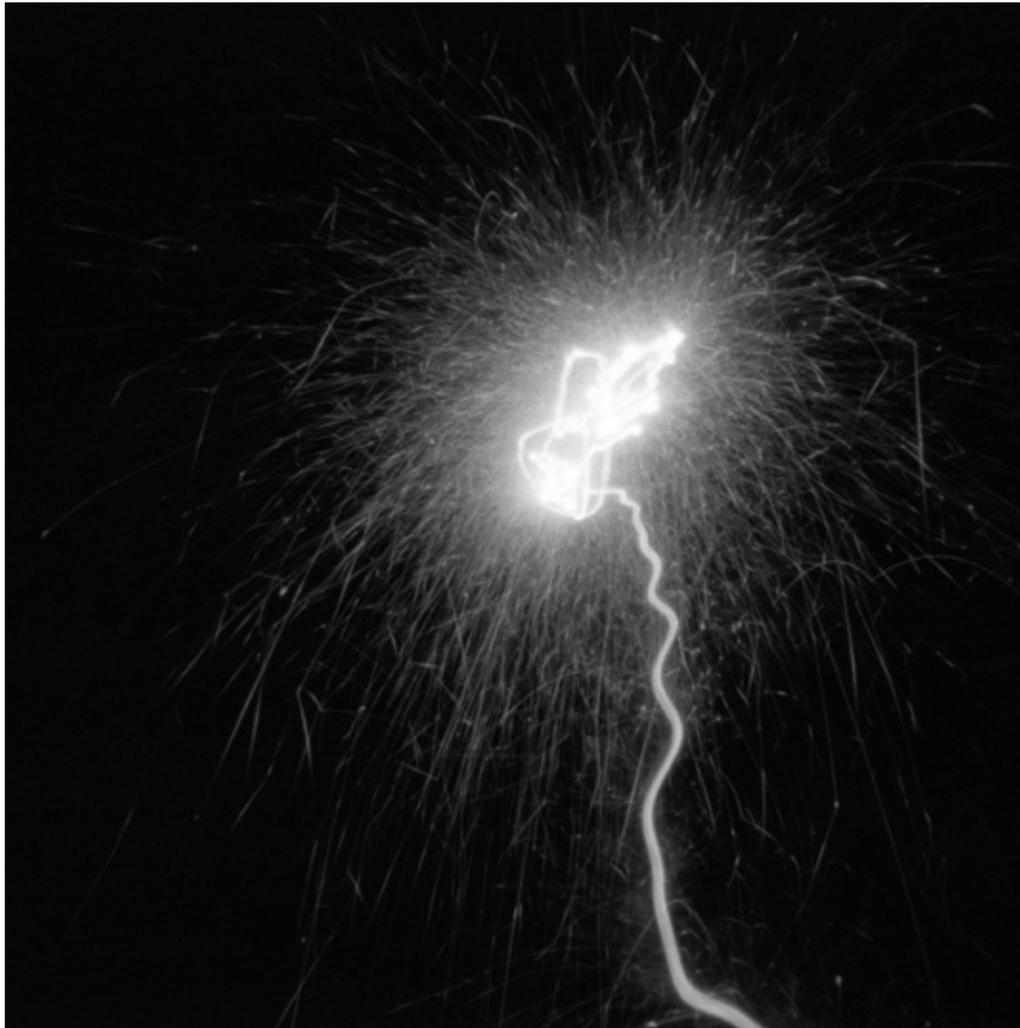
Light source: christmas lights, original



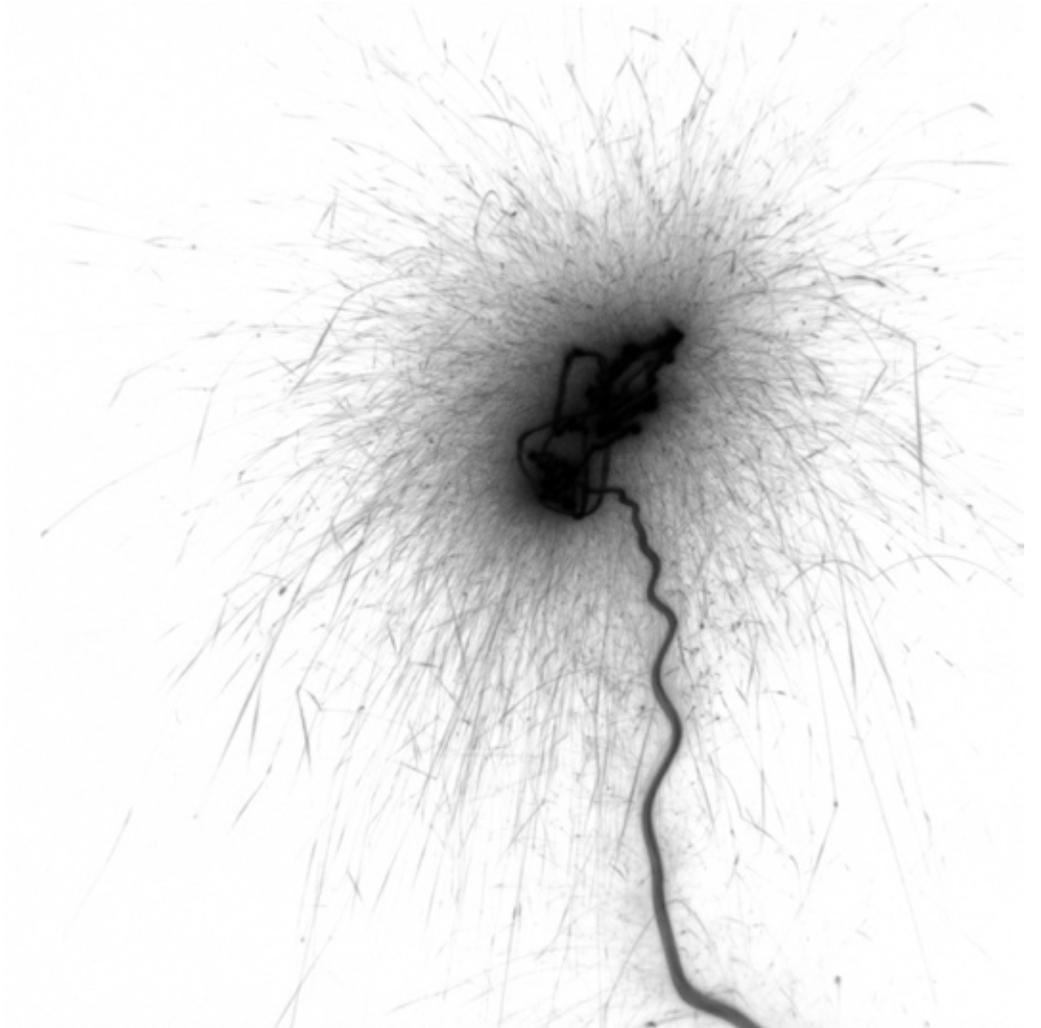
b-w inverted



Light source: a sparkler, original



b-w inverted



THE SELECTION

The final selection of photographs to be published in the book will be made us, with the help of a judging panel, whose members are yet to be defined. For the selection, we'll apply the following criteria:

1.

ARTISTIC CRITERIA: We want to see the unseen! We're all pioneers in contemporary pinhole photography, so we'd like to make a point of the specific characteristics of pinhole photography to create this "special view": from the distortion of perspective, lack of definition, playing with long-time-exposure to the use of multiple apertures. We're looking for these new interpretations of reality, which happily welcome chance.

2.

FORMAL CRITERIA: All photographs have to be taken exclusively with an analogue pinhole camera. Which exact type of pinhole camera, which film and apertures etc. you use, is entirely up to you. For publication in the book, we will also need (at least) the following additional information on each photo: exposure time, used film (ISO) as well as the camera type if you used one from a serial production. Digital editing is permitted as long as it does not exceed the limits of common analogue lab work, such as tonal and contrast adjustment or cropping. Strongly digitally edited photos do not fit in our concept.

CONTACT / IMPRINT / COPYRIGHT



www.OBSCURA-BOOK.com

HELLO@OBSCURA-BOOK.com

[Facebook.de/OBSCURA.BUCH](https://www.facebook.de/OBSCURA.BUCH)

© 2012 All rights reserved. Reproduction or publication of any material in this paper (concept, text, photographs) in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, or otherwise) is strictly prohibited without prior written permission.

The layout pictures used in this concept paper only serve as exemplary illustration of the intended look & feel of the OBSCURA book. All rights to the used photographs belong to the respective photographers as per reference.

THANK YOU

For your interest in our project! With this document we try to give a little more detail on what exactly we're up and why. But even after you have read these pages, there will surely be a few questions left. So please don't hesitate to e-mail us, we'd love to hear from you!