





Thobias Fältdt photographed by Klara Källström



Volume 1

Perhaps, we move further away from what we know by approaching its core. 581c is a place, a parallel universe. It is a mirror world with a wink — neither to be trusted nor to be dismissed. It is from here that Thobias Fältdt reports back: negating distance, negating time, as though all these images were somehow taken at once. An impossible archive, these photographs reveal a cross-section of people and experience, a mixture of the familiar and the foreign — unable to be explained as merely a dream.

When looking at Thobias's photographs I sometimes forget that, until that moment, his subjects exist in a world largely without light. People – embracing, standing, dancing, swimming, drinking, walking, smoking in the dark. Animals, objects, nature, statues – concealed by the blackness are momentarily revealed by the flash.

Light brings us knowledge of our surroundings and makes visible our goals. Light is warmth. Light is inviting. Light is necessary to life. But darkness is vital too. It is perhaps the essence of exploration, the catalyst of dreams. It is for those who prefer to look more closely, feel more acutely.

In certain combinations light and dark have the ability to transform, and Thobias Fältdt has created a world as vivid as that space between consciousness and sleep, where experiences exist independently of explanations.

As publisher, there is something to be learned here from both the subjects and the artist himself: On one hand, there is the joy of being hidden and the excitement that accompanies an experience of the unknown; on the other, there is the satisfaction that comes from showing what could previously not be seen.

581c — Volume 1 represents both the launch of OWN Books and the beginning of 581c as a broader project that recognises Thobias's photography as a torrent, or stream, better suited to

regularity than retrospectives. Over the next five years we will publish ten books together with each book accompanied by an event/exhibition in a different space, in a different location.

At this point, 581c is an idea, not an outcome. In it, amazing moments are captured and combined together to construct a narrative. The story is the sole objective. Based upon these ideas Thobias's work is not only the focus of this publication/project but also a metaphor for the broader approach of OWN Books. Here we begin our journey and endeavour to exist somewhere between the darkness and light.

Chris Barton
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