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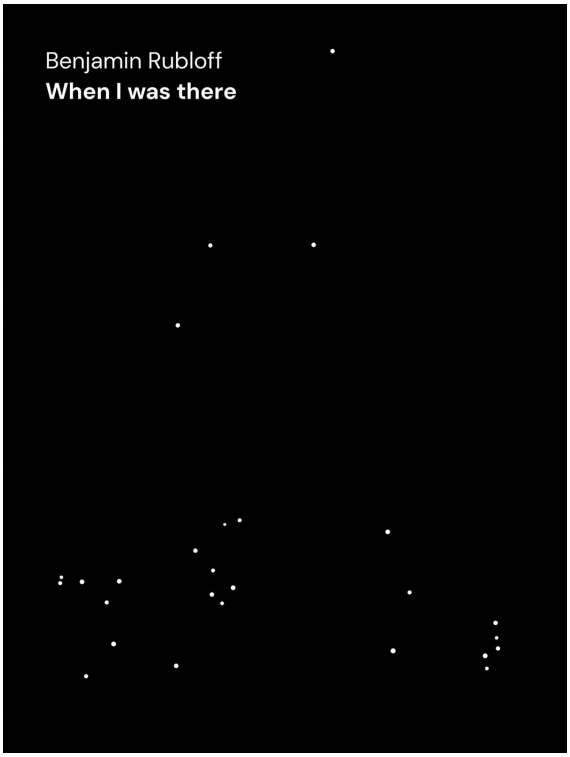


Benjamin Rubloff

When I was there

Duncan Ballantyne-Way

Benjamin Rubloff

ISBN	9783987411441
Publisher	Verlag Kettler
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Germany, Austria, Switzerland
Size	250 mm x 188 mm
Pages	116 Pages
Illustrations	74 color
Price	£42.00

- Street art recreated as fine art
- Accompanying text and photographs place the sites in context in a changing urban landscape

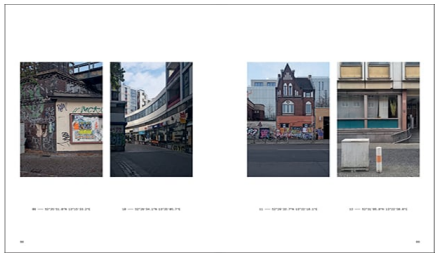
Benjamin Rubloff's paintings in this book are all based on fragments of found graffiti. For many years, the artist photographed tags as he walked around the city, mainly because he was interested in their painterly qualities: the speed of a gesture, the way they sit on a wall, their random drips and splashes. As an experiment, he began copying these marks into oil paintings, altering the scale and framing, but otherwise aiming for an exact transcription of the original tag. His intention was to create abstract paintings that would not bear the qualities of his own hand. Instead, they would be records of the traces of others.

When he retraced his steps — sometimes years later — to find the original tags, Rubloff often found them gone. Sometimes the sites themselves had been radically altered. He began to write about these places in conjunction with the paintings, exploring the intersection of their histories with his own. As a result, each painting in the book is accompanied by a text and a photograph of the site, intended to provide an anchor back to the city itself.

Benjamin Rubloff is an American artist now based in Berlin. His work explores issues of place. He began his career as a landscape painter, working conceptually within the genre to investigate how issues of politics and ideology are inscribed onto the landscape. This interest led him to Cornell University's interdisciplinary MFA program where he studied art alongside histories of landscape and urbanism. He is a recent recipient of a Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant for Painting. He holds an M.A. in education from Harvard University and a B.A. from Wesleyan University in American Studies.







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