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Hans Pieler

Architectures of Time

Hubertus von Amelunxen

Edited by Ali Ghandtschi

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- Presents for the first time some 100 images from German photographer Hans Pieler's extraordinary photographic study of calendar buildings
- Shows architectures of time such as millennia-old observatories and temple buildings on four continents in striking photographs
- The lavishly reproduced images are complemented by illuminating essays on the depicted structures and Hans Pieler's photographic oeuvre

For thousands of years, people have built so-called calendar buildings: buildings that served as sundials for measuring time or were used for astronomical calculations. The most famous examples include the Pyramids of Giza, the Megalithic Temples of Malta, the Solarium Augusti on Rome's Campus Martius, or the ancient observatories in Korea, Baghdad, Cairo, or Samarkand. The oldest known archaeo-astronomical device dates back to around 6000 BC and was discovered only some 20 years ago at Nabta Playa in Egypt.

The German photographer Hans Pieler (1951-2012) dedicated himself comprehensively to these calendar buildings. In a wide-ranging photographic project spanning 15 years, Pieler travelled the world in the search for such sites, studied them, and recorded many of them in striking photographs. His interest was focused both on the architecture and its particular coding through the respective culture as well as on the theory of photography, the allegorical image of the time.

Due to Pieler's premature death in 2012, the fascinating project remained unfinished and unpublished. This book now for the first time features a selection of some 100 of the best shots from the artist's estate. Complemented by illuminating essays, they form a unique photographic study of these architectures and their meaning and purpose as a reflection of time in stone.

Text in English and German.

Hubertus von Amelunxen is an art historian, editor, curator, photography critic, and professor of philosophy of photography and cultural studies. He served as president of Braunschweig University of Art and of the European Graduate School, based in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, and Valletta, Malta. **Ali Ghandtschi** is a Berlin-based photographer and keeper of the estate of Hans Pieler.

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