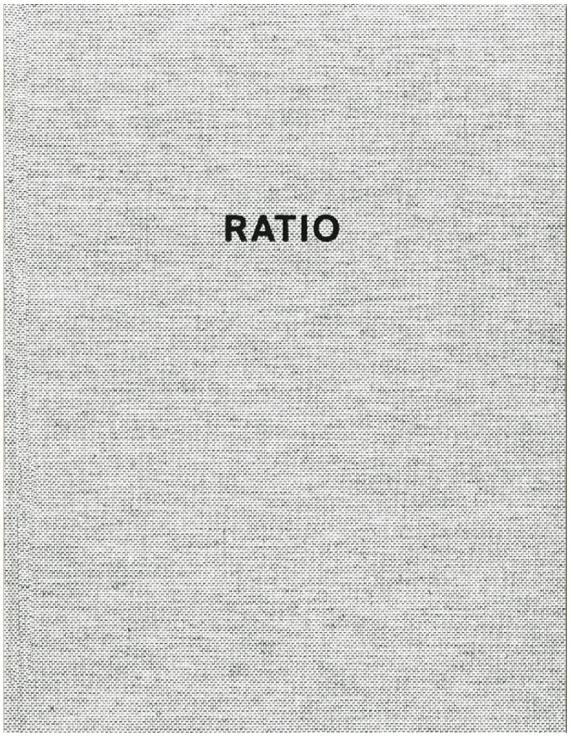
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RATIO

Bram Van Stappen

Introduction by Dominique Somers

ISBN	9789464363241
Publisher	HOPPER&FUCHS
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Belgium, France, Holland & Luxembourg
Size	220 mm x 165 mm
Pages	136 Pages
Illustrations	117 b&w
Price	£35.00

- A unique way to look at portrait photography
- Topography of backs
- Printed in black-and-white and duotone
- A photo book printed on Munken Print White 1.8 which gives the book a tactile experience
- Bram Van Stappen is a technical and conceptual photographer

The work ***Ratio*** consists of 117 images featuring the same number of naked men and women photographed from behind. Bram Van Stappen made the series as part of the exhibition *Back*, organised in Antwerp, Belgium, in 2021. Over six weeks, the photographer set up a field studio and invited visitors to undress and take a place in front of the camera, yet face the opposite direction. Set in a generic surrounding and central composition, evenly lit and tightly cropped, the resultant black-and-white images display a form of (anti)portraiture that seems above all to be a study in paradox.

Leafing through the book, we are confronted with an accumulation of nude backs in different shapes and sizes: male and female, young and old, inked and blank, slender and plump, (a)symmetric, straight, or with hunched shoulders. The head, neck, pelvis, and lower extremities are cut from the image with surgical precision, leaving only the back of the torso, arms, and sometimes part of the hands in view. What remains are pieces of an unidentified body frame, covered by a layer of skin.

Bram Van Stappen (Antwerp, 1981) is a photographer and teacher. ***Ratio*** is the first of his three books that are all based on the size, linen and design, which he applies himself. He specialises in black-and-white photography. **Dominique Somers** is an artist, photographer, curator and writer based in Brussels.







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