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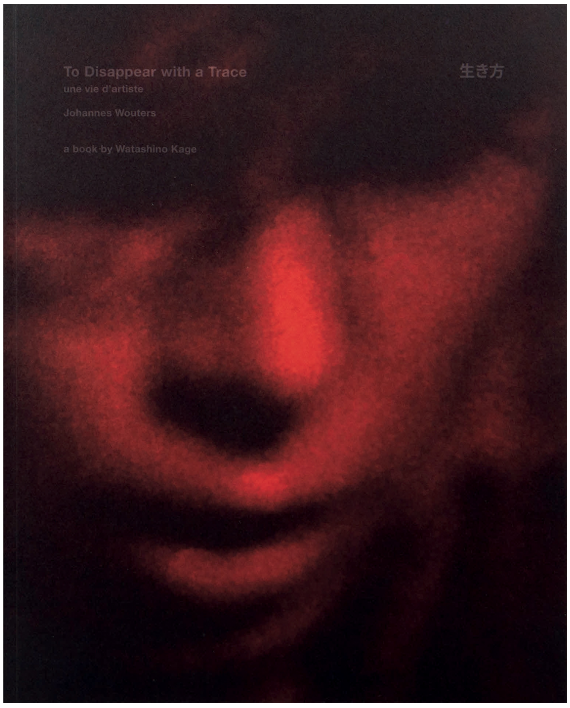

To disappear with a Trace une vie d'artiste

A way of Life, from Jean Claude Wouters to Johannes Wouters

Watashino Kage

Tomoya Kumagai

Kumi Oguro

Jean Claude Wouters

ISBN	9789464002997
Publisher	HOPPER&FUCHS
Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding Belgium, France, Holland & Luxembourg
Size	300 mm x 240 mm
Pages	320 Pages
Illustrations	462 color, 44 b&w
Price	£55.00

- A unique artist's book conceived as an open-ended notebook rather than a traditional monograph
- Framed through the perspective of Tokyo-based curator Watashino Kage, adding a narrative and editorial layer
- Features a conceptual approach where meaning emerges through juxtaposition

La Vie d'un Artiste, To Disappear with a Trace unfolds as a constructed notebook rather than a conventional monograph. Initiated through a message from Jean Claude Wouters to Tokyo-based journalist and curator Watashino Kage. The publication gathers archival materials, documents, and images into an open-ended constellation — one that may stimulate both the spirit and the body of an art student, as well as the art connoisseur. Its design remains minimal and effortless, with elements assembled loosely and intuitively, allowing meaning to emerge through every possible combination.

As an artist of restraint and sobriety, Jean Claude Wouters evolves toward increasing discretion in his expressions. With this in mind, the central theme of the book is established: a journey from physicality to the utmost lightness. He began as a ballet dancer and moved across multiple forms — painting, filmmaking, and photography — continually pushing their boundaries, to the point of producing photographic portraits that are barely perceptible and practicing painting at its limits, almost without paint. His late activity being a performance/class, "The Practice – je suis allé m'ébattre à l'origine de toute chose", in his own words: "At last, maybe, I touch the non-physicality of the art piece, and if there is art in the process, it lives in what the participants take away."

Text in English and Japanese.

Jean Claude Wouters (b. 1958 Brussels), lived and worked in Paris, Tokyo, Italy, Dubai, Los Angeles and Brussels. Studied drawing from an early age, then ballet, filmmaking and various performing arts. In his career as an artist he has shown an intense sensitivity to the nature of both the body and the spirit. After studying and dancing with Maurice Béjart and Lindsay Kemp, Wouters started working as a performing artist and as an independent filmmaker, his work selected by the London Film-Makers' Co-op, the Tsukuba University Japan, the Director Fortnight section (Quinzaine des réalisateurs) at the Cannes Film Festival in 1981 (Brian Eno – Music for Films), and receiving several awards in international film festivals, New York, San Francisco, Paris, Prague, Tehran, Montréal. In the '90s he worked as a filmmaker and fashion photographer, his speciality being Beauty and Woman expressed in a simple and natural manner (Lancôme, Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent, Givenchy, Louis Féraud, Tag Heuer, etc.). Wouters also collaborated with fashion designer Marc Jacobs for ARTREAGEOUS at Bloomingdale's (New York, 2007). In 2011, he performed *CRINOLINE MAN* at the LACMA museum (Los Angeles), and *SHADOW WALKER* at the MOCA Museum (Tucson, AZ). In 2012 he was awarded the POLLOCK-KRASNER Foundation Grant in NYC.

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