



Underdog Suite

Photographs and Collages 1998-2009

Cat Tuong Nguyen

Nadine Olonetzky

Burkhard Meltzer

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Cat Tuong Nguyen has over the past ten years gained significant recognition for a highly individual, intelligent and poetic work. Photographs, collages, painted-over pictures from magazines form together a cosmos of images of great visual and substantial power. Nguyen confronts the viewer with strange, humorous and mysterious things and investigates our everyday reality. He takes-up political and social aspects and events, and he investigates the emotional world of the individual searching for its way in everyday reality. Nguyen's images, playful as they seem to be in some cases, are based on fundamental experiences, such as emigration, integration in a new world and the outsider's view of an alien culture and society. "Underdog Suite" is the first large book on Nguyen's art. It comprises nearly the complete oeuvre of this extraordinary young artist, his own selection of images arranged in an unconventional, highly original manner. It is not a mere monographic overview, it is rather the artist's self-portrait in the shape of a book. Two essays investigate Nguyen's ideas, concepts and artistic method. This title includes text in English and German.

Cat Tuong Nguyen, born 1969 in Vietnam, came to Switzerland in 1981. After reading psychology and philosophy at the university of Berne 1991-93 he was educated as a photographer at the School of Art and Design Zurich 1993-98. His work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions in Winterthur, Zurich, Paris, Cologne and other cities in Switzerland and France and at the Venice Biennale Architecture in 2004. Nadine Olonetzky, born 1963, is a freelance journalist and writer and an expert in photography. She regularly contributes to major Swiss daily and weekly newspapers and to exhibition catalogues, and has published monographs and biographies of Swiss photographers. Burkhard Meltzer was educated as a photographer in Dortmund and Zurich. He has been working as curator for various museums and also independently in 2006-2007, and on a research project at the Zurich University for the Arts since 2008. He has been teaching at the Zurich University for the Arts since 2006 and the Hochschule Liechtenstein since 2007, and also works as a freelance art critic in Zurich.