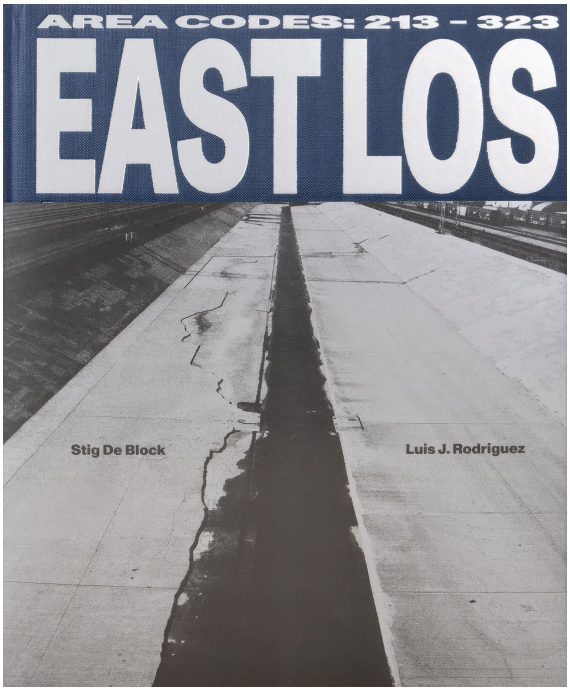
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EAST LOS

A Monograph by Stig De Block in Close Collaboration with Luis J. Rodriguez

Stig De Block

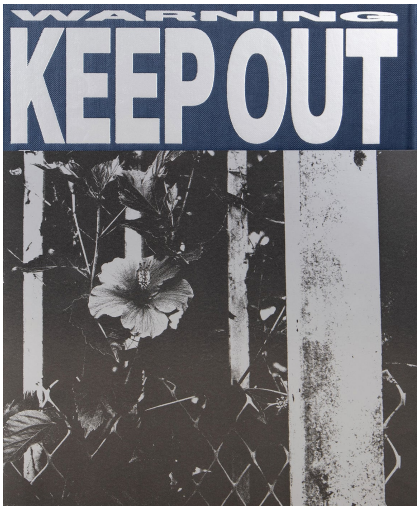
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Size	9.65 in x 11.81 in
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- An intimate portrait of East Los Angeles: documenting the friendships, rituals, and everyday lives of people across the neighborhood
- A distinctive literary connection: developing in close collaboration with author and former Los Angeles Poet Laureate Luis J. Rodriguez, whose poem *The Eastside of All Eastsides* provided the foundation for the project
- A rich visual study of place: bringing together portraits, gestures, urban façades, layered paint, posters, and other details that reveal the neighborhood's accumulated histories

EAST LOS is a photographic portrait of East Los Angeles and a new monograph by Belgian photographer Stig De Block. Following his debut book, *Back to Back: From Backyard to Boulevard*, it extends his long-term photographic engagement with Los Angeles communities. The book explores the friendships, rituals, and everyday lives of the people who shape the neighborhood. Developed over several years, the project moves beyond familiar, sensationalized representations of the area, focusing instead on the quieter details of belonging, cultural memory, and shared experience.

The project took a decisive direction through De Block's encounter with the writing of Luis J. Rodriguez, author and former Los Angeles Poet Laureate. His poem, *The Eastside of All Eastsides*, became a foundation for the photographer's journey, informing an approach attentive to the history, texture, and endurance of Mexican-American culture. Photographs made across neighborhoods including Boyle Heights, Montebello, Maravilla, and Ramona Gardens bring together portraits, urban surfaces, gestures, and visual details that speak to generations of community life. Walls layered with paint and posters become records of accumulated histories, while images of people and their surroundings evoke connection, continuity, and resilience. Combining close observation with a nuanced, compassionate perspective, ***EAST LOS*** presents a layered account of place and the people who give it meaning.

Stig De Block (b. 1990 in Antwerp, Belgium) is a photographer whose practise explores cultural heritage, subcultures, identity, and belonging. Working at the intersection of lived experience and imagination, he develops story-driven photographic projects through long-term immersion, trust, and engagement with communities. His images translate shared rituals, aesthetics, and passions into a visual language shaped by light, color, and gesture, emphasizing human connection, cultural memory, and collective expression. In 2022, De Block published his debut photobook, *Back to Back: From Backyard to Boulevard*, an intimate portrait of Los Angeles's lowrider community. His work has been presented at international photography events and art fairs, including Photo London, Paris Photo, and Art Basel Miami through Scope and Photo Basel. He has also exhibited at Le 109 in Nice and participated in projects with fashion and cultural brands including Carhartt. De Block is represented by Gallery FIFTY ONE in Antwerp.



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