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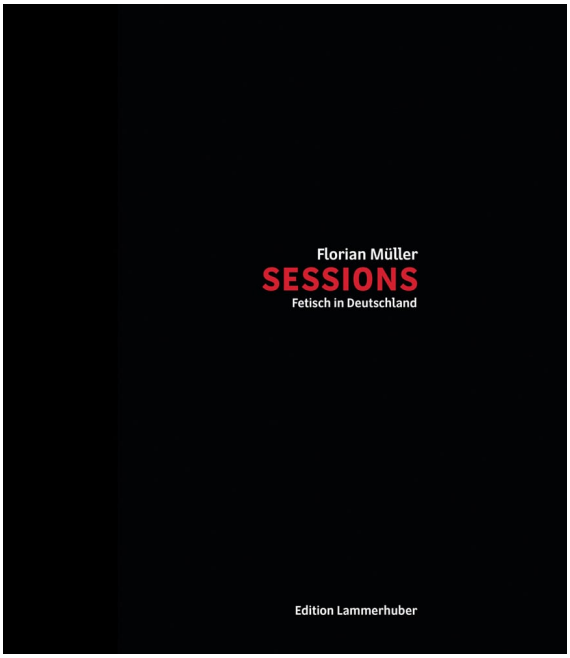

Sessions

Florian Muller

Nora Gantenbrink

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- In this empathetic photographic work on sexual fetish in Germany, Florian Müller illustrates primeval desires and needs of the human existence.This book is a testimony to tolerance and otherness in an elementary human domain
- Limited, numbered and signed edition of 1,000 copies
- Florian Müller's work *Sessions* won him the Prix de la Photographie Paris and an award from the Art Directors Club Germany

"Most sessions are shockingly harmless. What the people whose stories are shown in my pictures have in common is a meaningful quest for elementary human needs, such as freedom, warmth and comfort, maybe even happiness," Florian Müller recounts. He photographs fetishists; people who dress up as dogs or let themselves be bound and hung from the ceiling. It is their way of relaxing and achieving fulfilment. At first sight what you see is masquerade, Kafkaesque scenes, *danses macabres*, transformations into animals, into slaves, into a shrink-wrapped maggot. Behind the masquerade lurks stories of people and their needs. Of desires, wounds and dreams and the pictures tell us these stories. Florian Müller worked on fetishism in Germany for several years. Sometimes it took weeks before the people trusted him and let him in on their sessions. He did not abuse their trust. His pictures are not revolting, but close, almost tender. Contents: "It's the most intimate embrace that you can imagine"; "What is Jesus to think of you sick people?"; "I do not inflict pain for the sake of it. But to spank someone who really likes it, that's amazingly liberating."; "Someone lies in a hammock and imagines he is on Hawaii. One of my guests sits in an iron cage and imagines he is a pig. That happens to be his dream, his film. Like Hawaii, just different, you see?"; "From head to toe in rubber, what can be finer?"; "Lisa is how I have always imagined my dream woman. Long, black hair, large breasts. At some point I realized that I would never get this woman. Then I constructed her myself."; "I tried not to think of latex. It was torture."; "I love dressing up as a dog. And Max loves me."; "As a horse I take a vacation from my own personality." Text in English and German.

Florian Muller studied photography at the Hannover University of Applied Sciences and Arts. His work SESSIONS won him the Prix de la Photographie Paris and an award from the Art Directors Club Germany. Nora Gantenbrink studied politics, history and communication in Munster and attended the Henri Nannen School of Journalism in Hamburg with internships at Berliner Zeitung, ZEIT, SPIEGEL ONLINE, and SPIEGEL. In 2013 she began to work as a reporter for STERN magazine. She also writes short stories. She lives in Hamburg, St. Pauli.

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