

Laudation German Photobook Prize 19|20

The German Photobook Prize is a competition in which the best photo books from the German-Speaking countries are selected by a team of jury. Always looking for something “special” and “extraordinary”, the jury honored the achievement of the authors, the photographers, the editors and the producers of the submitted photo books. In their laudations, the members of the jury team provided insight into the reasons for their decisions and at the same time offered inspiring „Reading and Viewing Advice“ for the general public to appreciate the awarded books.



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Category: Student Projects



Special prize

Developments

Photographer: Tino Zimmermann

Text: Tino Zimmermann

Design: Tino Zimmermann



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A review would not do justice to this book, nor to its author, Tino Zimmermann. Born in 1990, Tino Zimmermann studied photojournalism and documentary photography in Hanover and has been studying fine art at the Karlsruhe Art Academy since 2018 in the class of Prof. Daniel Roth.

One should not presume to be able to judge the autobiographical phases about which the book "Developments" reports. It is a medical history, but not a medical file. The work on this book was a therapy for the drug-addicted and, according to his own and medical diagnosis, schizophrenic patient. There are many examples in psychiatric medical records of patients trying to cope with the obsessive images of their schizophrenia by describing their symptoms on a daily basis.

The most famous example is that of Daniel Paul Schreber (1842-1911), who after all had become a high-ranking lawyer in the then Kingdom of Saxony. By writing down his seemingly incoherent trains of thought every day, irrational forms of expression and compulsively recurring hallucinations, he tried to free himself from his tormenting illness. The book "Developments", with its own description of the course of a psychiatric illness, thus get in line with our cultural history.

In psychotherapy, the rhythmization of daily processes is a very important form of therapy. The creation of rhythm, whether in music and behavioral therapy or the seasonal sequence of festivals, is a proven and effective therapeutic method. After he discharged himself from a psychiatric clinic and refused any kind of drug therapy, Tino Zimmermann created a rhythmic self-therapy by taking photographs, going to the chemist's shop to have the exposed films developed, waiting for the results of the images and finally making an editorial selection from about 10,000 negatives.

Looking at the pictures and the edited book, one has an idea of the up and down phases of his illness. Thus, the book itself reflects a rhythm that draws the reader into the spell of processes in the human brain that are still unexplained today, but which have been described as schizophrenic.

Schreber's book was bought up by the middle-class family and almost the entire edition was burned. From Sigmund Freud's very first scientific publication we know that it was the book-burning father who drove the son into paranoid illness. So this father, Daniel Gottlob Moritz Schreber, became doubly famous, both as the eponym of allotment gardens and as the cause of his own son's illness.



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We are so glad that Tino Zimmermann has been able to finish his book even after the failure of a crowd funding in his own publishing house and can offer it for sale.

With his outstanding photographs, his creative design, which perhaps could never have been realised by a large publishing house, this book, which was awarded by the jury, is a milestone in self-publishing in terms of form, content and readable history of origins, but also in the design of a photo book. This prize is not only recognition but also a bow to the author.

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