

# 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.



German Photobook Prize 19|20  
Category: Student Projects  
(Special Prize)



Special Prize

**Live with Love. Promise**

Photographer: Jasmin Breidenbach

Text: Jasmin Breidenbach

Design: Jasmin Breidenbach



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The work is set in a white, very strong book cover with gold embossing.

There are two volumes in one, whereby it remains open which part is the first and which the second. They are both independent and yet linked. If the last page and the cover of one book is turned over, one gets directly to the beginning of the other.

The thicker volume contains a documentation of life in Simandhar City, a city in India. 20 km away from Ahmedabad in the state of Gujarat. Simandhar City is the center of the spiritual Akram Vignan community, which pursues the goal of inner peace and absolute bliss.

They are pictures that give everyday insights into the life of the inhabitants and describe the great festivals, ceremonies and anniversaries of India as part of the culture. Among them is the Janma Jayanti 111 Festival, which was held in Simandhar City for an incredible million people from all over the world.

The smaller volume "The Alternative Paths to Female Empowerment" contains portraits of 24 women of different ages and backgrounds. They come from India, the USA and Europe and reflect the internationality and heterogeneity of the community. The portraits are accompanied by short, personal life and experience reports.

Why does a young woman go to, of all places, India, a spiritual community to address the issue of the empowerment of women? Don't women in India have a particularly difficult time? Jasmin Breidenbach has an answer not only as a photographer, but also as the designer and author of the texts:

"... women in the Akram Vignan community are equal members and are supported and empowered in a way that they couldn't find anywhere else. The community with its openness and equal, peaceful and loving coexistence, can not only be an example of women's rights. Rather it should be seen, especially in these times of hatred and racism, as a good example of coexistence of all people around the world."

Congratulations to Nadine Breidenbach.

Karima Klasen  
Stuttgart, artist  
karimaklasen@outlook.com

