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Henning Bohl and Sabine Reitmaier

The Bus Wrap Book

Tourists have a bad reputation, but so do strangers, and the rest is a slippery slope. What marks tourists from locals is that they are always looking around. Like all things tourism is a two way street, but its inherent design means that the motion of the ocean is lopsided so that while one drives on the autobahn the other manages some other way. I never take the bus. I once took the bus from Lima to Trujillo and woke up with my underwear in my hands and my pants on. But like the tractor, the bus has established itself as one of the three most important practical necessities ever, the third being soap. But of the three most important things ever only buses are intrinsically attached to motion. Paintings have always been about documentation. But it wasn't until cameras that painting became about documenting motion as a subject itself. Italians in the thirties seemed to favor weiner dogs and tanks, Americans in the fourties let their bodies do the motion and the paint was the ocean. But like the ocean this movement was too strong to hold onto and the high culture of painting couldn't maintain its authority over showing us how things are. So advertising did to op-art what comics did to futurism; or was it the other way around?

A few years back Henning Bohl and Sabine Reitmaier started working on something they referred to as the „Bus Book“. Whether or not it would ever take the shape of a book wasn't important, it was one from the get-go. The book was born aloft on the streets; ever since it was announced and one of the two would come for a visit they instantly needed time off; maybe you would run into them by chance, camera around the neck, meandering through the city on the lookout for a few shots of a banana on the side of a bus. They were tourists. But the kind that travels with the Dumont Travel Guide: „You only see what you know!“. So in a way the Bus Book could have become one of those boring research books, except it's exciting. It is exciting like when you have to sit through a long distance flight and finally decide to fish out the Skymall-Magazine from the pouch that's attached to the seat in front of you. You flip open the first page and are bedazzled with the world of incredible goods! How does the crab, about to bite into a lady's toe, relate to the Blaguss? What is Jesus doing on the side of a bus? You gasp for understanding.

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"The Bus Wrap Book", 2009

Microflute corrugated board box including three offset printed posters 59,4 x 81 cm, colour photograph 28 x 35 cm and artist book. 24 pp., various colour plates 29,7 x 42 cm
ed.20/ap.6 unique

Posters folded to book with various plates cut out from coloured poster and bookpages. With Text by Will Benedict and Lucie Stahl. Cover Typeface ConvertToPath by Wolfgang Breuer

ed. /20