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NEW RELEASE

Nicola Lo Calzo

Inside Niger

Texts by Laura Serani and Sami Tchak

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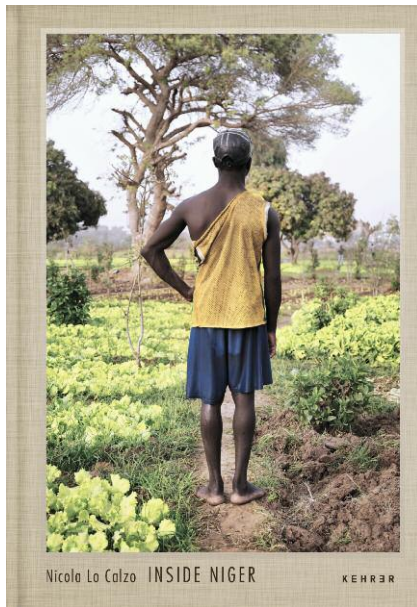
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Suggestive portrait of the Niger river

Inside Niger questions the relationship between water and work in one of the most fragile regions of the planet, the Sahel. Especially in Niger, where the economy is entirely concentrated along the banks of the homonymous river, the phenomena of desertification and water pollution are the first obstacle to economic development. The reportage, committed by Paris city council and Conseil General de Val de Marne, is taking place in the region of Tillabéri and Dosso in the Niger, now banned to travellers.

Its main focus is the population that lives and works on the borders of the Niger River, where most of commercial activities take place such as universities, public work, markets, fishing, slaughterhouse, vegetable gardens, and tannery. With reference to the great tradition of the portrait that runs from August Sander until now, and through an original reappropriation of the African photography, Nicola Lo Calzo composes an eclectic portrait of this river's universe. In the latter, through the value of work, every subject seems to find his own identity. The people photographed belong to these living places of memory, in a game of correspondences with the surrounding landscape.

Nicola Lo Calzo is an Italian photographer born in Torino in 1979. After training in architecture, he started his artistic endeavour in 2001. His photography is that of a documentary proposal, undertaken halfway between journalism and art, while focusing on minority issues and human rights. He con-

tributes with the press on a regular basis (Le Monde, La Stampa, il Corriere della Sera, Courier International, M Magazine), and is also commissioned by institutional or commercial enterprises. His work has been exhibited in France and in other countries, e.g. at the Rencontres d'Arles, the Confluences Museum, and the "Images Singulières Festival" in Sète (France). His most recent exhibition *Morgante* was featured at the Alinari National Museum for Photography, in Italy. Nicola Lo Calzo lives and works in Paris.

Laura Serani studied modern Literature, History and Philosophy in Rome and in Paris, where she is based. She is the curator of exhibitions, festivals, editorial and audio-visual projects, she is currently the Artistic Director of the Rencontres de Bamako, the African Photography Biennial, in Mali.

Sami Tchak, whose real name is Sadamba Tcha-Koura, was born in Togo in 1960. In 2004, Sami Tchak won the Grand Prix of Black African Literature for the entire range of his work.

Exhibitions

8th Angkor Photo Festival, Siem Reap, Cambodia, 01. – 08.12.2012

Book Signings at Paris Photo 2012

Kehrer Verlag, EE03, Friday, 16.11. 2012, 4pm

SFR Galerie, Saturday, 17.11.2012

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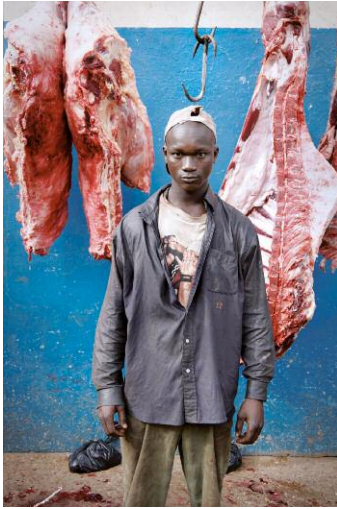
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