

# MATT STUART

## ALLES, WAS DAS LEBEN BIETEN KANN ALL THAT LIFE CAN AFFORD

“All that life can afford” will be Matt Stuart’s first major and comprehensive exhibition at which around 100 of his works will be on display. The exhibition will be celebrating its global premiere at the Stadtmuseum Schleswig in June 2018 and can then be viewed at the Städtischen Galerie Iserlohn from November on.

Stadtmuseum Schleswig · 15th June, 2018 – 16th September, 2018

Städtische Galerie Iserlohn · 16th November, 2018 – 10th February, 2019

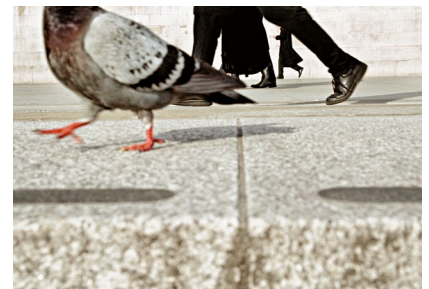
### MATT STUART

A simple autumn leaf on the pavement, but at the same time a cheerfully smiling, red mouth – these are the bizarre, humorous moments that the fleeting glance misses, but which grasp Matt Stuart’s whole attention. Together with his Leica, he incessantly roams the streets of London, his home town. “When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford”, a quote from the 18th century by the English author and critic Samuel L. Johnson, was chosen by Matt Stuart as the foreword to his first publication.

“All that life can afford” was published in 2016 and presents a collection of around 100 photographs captured between 2002 and 2015 in the streets and squares of the British metropole.

Born in Harrow in the north-west of London in 1974, Matt Stuart’s first constant companion was a skateboard which, at the same time, sparked off his fascination with city life that has continued until this day. Meanwhile, he has swapped the skateboard for a camera, without which he never leaves the house.

Books by Robert Frank and Henri Cartier-Bresson, gifts from his father, awakened Matt’s interest in photography at an early age. In the meantime, street photography has become his special passion alongside his professional, contract-related work. “Buy yourself a good pair of comfortable shoes, keep your elbows to yourself, be patient, optimistic – and never forget to smile.” Based on this credo, his fine British humour and an infallible intuition for scenes and incidents on the brink of happening, Matt Stuart sets off in search of “moments of truth”. With his perspective of things, he disproves the allegation that street photography is an obsolete, dull form of art. Life is constantly changing, and with it all the human comedies and tragedies, big and small, that transpire day after day on the world’s “street stages”. Matt Stuart’s photographs are never contrived. In his essay “Why does he do this



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every day?", Geoff Dyer explains in clear words that Londoners normally make their way through the City in a hurry and with a sullen expression on their faces, avoiding "any visual buffeting". Not Matt Stuart, though; he is "mischievous, not morose", reflecting in his photographs everything we miss when we hurry through our everyday lives "wearing mental blinkers". At the same time, the multidimensional nature of his works is never just the gag in the foreground; instead, a visual narrative is revealed made up of numerous details and stories, initially composed in the photographer's eye and then again in the eye of the viewer.

The internet competition and book project "Street Photography Now", initiated in 2012 by the British publishing house Thames Et Hudson, unleashed something like a renaissance in street photography worldwide. Week by week for a whole year, renowned photographers posted theme assignments online that were worked through by a continually growing group of photo enthusiasts on all continents. In the end, the best entries were selected and incorporated in the book. The honour of providing the cover photograph was awarded to Matt Stuart. His photo – a pigeon caught from the pavement perspective which appears to be strolling across Trafalgar Square in step with the passers-by and whose tail feathers resemble the coat-tails of the people in the square – quickly became famous, making Matt Stuart a well-known name. He became a member of the international collective body In-Public, as well as catching the attention of Magnum Photos – Matt Stuart has been a nominated member of this legendary agency, something like a knightly accolade for any young photographer, since 2016.

Stadtmuseum Schleswig and Städtische Galerie Iserlohn are continuing their long, successful collaborative partnership with this Matt Stuart project, and have the pleasure of putting on this exhibition in cooperation with the photographer and Magnum Photos. Thanks to the initiative of the two municipal partners, "All that life can afford" will be Matt Stuart's first major, comprehensive exhibition at which around 100 of his works will be on display. The exhibition will be celebrating its global premiere at the Stadtmuseum Schleswig in June 2018 and can then be viewed at the Städtischen Galerie Iserlohn from November on. After that, the exhibition will be going on tour, managed by Magnum Photos, Paris.



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