



Media Information

THE SAVAGE PARADISE

Vianca Reinig and Philipp Schmidt traveled through Lewis and Harris, the northernmost Scottish island of the Outer Hebrides, and fell under the spell of its beauty. Their latest book of photographs makes it possible for readers to experience the unique landscape, its jagged ruggedness, and the rough colors that stand in strong contrast to the local architecture. With its varying perspectives and sudden switches from panoramas to details, this elaborately designed artist's book is practically a series of film stills, making the journey's impressions seem hauntingly alive.

Bielefeld/Berlin, January 14, 2020 – Lewis and Harris is the largest island of the Outer Hebrides, an archipelago in the upper reaches of northern Europe, just sixty kilometers from the Scottish west coast on the Atlantic.

Geographically, the place almost looks as if it's falling off the edge of any map of Great Britain äußerew. After all, it is almost as far to London from there as it is to Iceland, and it has an oddly timeless appearance. Despite all of the technological progress that has reached the island, life on Lewis and Harris is just as it was two hundred years ago everywhere in the Highlands and on the Scottish Isles: the cold ocean is either a light blue or a royal blue, and occasionally a roiling cyan or a calm blue-gray. The savage sea spray gnaws at the rocky coastline, washing over kilometers of white beaches. Behind the coast rises a landscape of hills in a soft, rich green, which gradually pile themselves up into craggy mountains. Otherwise, vegetation is rather scarce on the Outer Hebrides. Wherever there are no bare gray, black, or bright, reddish, shimmering rocks visible, the landscape is barren and mostly covered in moors, bogs, or heath. The wind never ceases to bluster across this landscape, which has grown used to storms. No trees, no bushes, but, surprisingly enough, palm trees in some of the front gardens of the island's few inhabitants.

Besides the main town of Stornoway, the island is home to a few small granges and hamlets characterized by a kind of unspectacular, practical architecture whose façades are primarily made of weather-resistant, functional, exposed aggregate concrete. Clear shapes in white, sandy brown, and slate gray, with a red and yellow roof set directly on top.

In Lewis and Harris a pair of photographers from Hamburg Vianca Reinig (*1989) and Philipp Schmidt (*1983), explore the landscape and environment of the northernmost island of the Outer Hebrides. Both horizontal- and landscape-format photographs reflect the primitive and rough beauty of this unique landscape in all of its colors, shapes, and elements. Contrasted to this are the ways that the people who have made their homes here in these archaic surroundings have used and shaped them.

From a design perspective, this publication is also a highlight: the book's approximately 120 pages are bound in a board flush cover with a second, glued-on, laminated cover. The endpapers are printed in a continuous manner.



Vianca Reinig und Philipp Schmidt | Lewis and Harris

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Donald S. Murray

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Felix Link

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