

JOURNAL21.ch

Review by Stephan Wehowsky in the newspaper *Journal21*,
Zürich, Switzerland

Silent Moments is the title of Håkan Strand's photography book. Turning each page, the observer experiences not only silence, but also timelessness.

In the midst of a daily flood of fast-moving images, there are always individual pictures that captivate viewers for decades to come. These are timeless. Such images are often called icons. Behind this mostly superficially used word lies a sacred meaning. Icons are images of the church in which the sacred comes into its own.

In the modern figurative sense, it is obvious that photographic icons refer to something elemental, that is difficult to name, but resonate somewhere in the viewer. Again and again, these pictures are shown and never miss their effect.

Håkan Strand, with his black-and-white photographs, touches the onlookers in their hearts. He does this by depicting Nature, not people. Now and then he shows buildings or ships, even these without people, and he omits any unnecessary elements.

This minimalistic approach lends character to the photographs. A tree, a bridge, a cliff: in their position as solitary, they have something archetypal about them. You think you've seen it all before, but you cannot take your eyes off it. The pictures are like beautiful harmonies that echo inside.

In order to emphasize the focus on the absolutely essential, the beautifully designed and excellently printed volume contains only a very short preface in English and Swedish. It tells us that the photo artist, Håkan Strand, lives in Stockholm and has received many awards for his work. If you visit Håkan Strand's website (www.hakanstrand.com), you can learn more about his work. He has compiled his entries there chronologically, so that you can follow his international activities.

The photographs in this volume were made during a period from 1997 to 2017. Basically, Håkan Strand works with analog photography and often uses medium format cameras like the Hasselblad and Rolleiflex.

Håkan Strand, *Silent Moments*, text by Olivier Delhoume. Designed by Anders Schmidt, 124 pages, 54 duplex illustrations, Kehrer Verlag, Heidelberg 2018