

* shrouded meaning

words about 'Al borde de todo mapa'

by **Alex Prior**

Alchemist is a fitting description of the photographer and artist Juanan Requena. His photographs bear the scars of time, the elements and the human hand. Creased, folded, faded and stained, far from being damaged or degraded these images are infused with life.

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There are occasions when a photobook can be over engineered where the images do not marry with the design and vice versa. The images can be rendered secondary and lose their luster. This book is the opposite. The half leporello double sided dual folding design works beautifully as a canvas for the equally multifaceted works replete with shrouded meaning. Requena produced numerous diaries prior to this book and the thoughtful yet spontaneous nature of putting words and thoughts to paper is reflected throughout these pages.

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This is a journey. Fraught and tinged with a longing questions unanswered and endings left untied. A nomadic life where beauty is witnessed unvarnished and pure and the landscape offers no refuge from loss. The pages are scrawled with questions that have no answers: "Time returns?" "Will there be an end?". Maybe we are seeing the edge of life, the borders of existence or simply one's vision of freedom.

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The photographs are poetic and sepia toned somewhere between submerged under and hovering just above the surface of memory. Endless roads, train tracks, vast expanses and figures turned from our gaze. There is a sense of restlessness of continual movement and of departure, people places and memories left behind.

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This is a book to explore and to be absorbed by. There is a pleasure in spending time with each image and becoming part of Juanan Requena's world.