

PRESS RELEASE

54+1 Portraits by Valérie Barkowski

In the yo-yo days of Brussels's springtime confinement and the emergence of a masked world, Valérie Barkowski redesigned the face of humankind with two carrot slices, a rusty nail, ginger, mushrooms, a few buttons resurrected from a drawer... some rice noodles, flower pistils and stems collected on invigorating daily walks.

72 portraits came to life; 54+1 have been selected for this special album. With her free-spirited hand, each oeuvre was instinctively composed with wit and creative inspiration. Infinitely aesthetic and striking, each visage was shared on social media. In the blink of an eye, a flood of likes and smiles provoked a spontaneous digital exchange. Just as the creator of the Meet My Wilson project David Leppan had hoped, with them came a wave of online love and connection designed to overcome feelings of C-19 solitude and loneliness.

With every expressive face preserved on her smartphone, Valérie Barkowski ultimately turned them over for professional editing at the insistence of photographer and friend Anita Calero. Immortalized with a Franc' Paireon layout and heavy grammage paper, this book is Valerie's way of sharing her abstract creations with the real world.

Mr Maximinus, Mrs Agathe Power, Sultan Walla, Madame Rêve, Mama Wemba... Mission impossible picking a favorite among this collection of characters lovingly named with humor and carefully curated into three families: Primitive, Ethnic and Kwanita. In their distinct language, each tells a human story — also revealing the subtle power of imagination. Wishing all a long and happy life!

The book is a signed and numbered, limited edition of 250.

Offset color print on Munken pure paper,

Softcover (300gr) 88 pages (170gr).

Color offset printed on Munken pure paper.

Linen thread bound. Size 21cm x 29,7cm.

Price 50 euros + shipping charges.

A selection of 20 signed original photographs is also available in a limited edition of 7 in 30cm x 40cm. .

Printed on organic 70%hemp 30% cotton paper of 305gr with certified ultra chrome pigments.

Price 400 euros. Shipping charges are free for Europe.

A selection of 10 signed original photographs is also available in a limited edition of 7 in 45cm x 60cm. .

Printed on organic 70%hemp 30% cotton paper of 305gr with certified ultra chrome pigments.

Price 650 euros. Shipping charges are free for Europe.

Book and prints are available for purchase on valeriebarkowski.com

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VALERIE BARKOWSKI

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