

Hunger

&

A

HUNGER

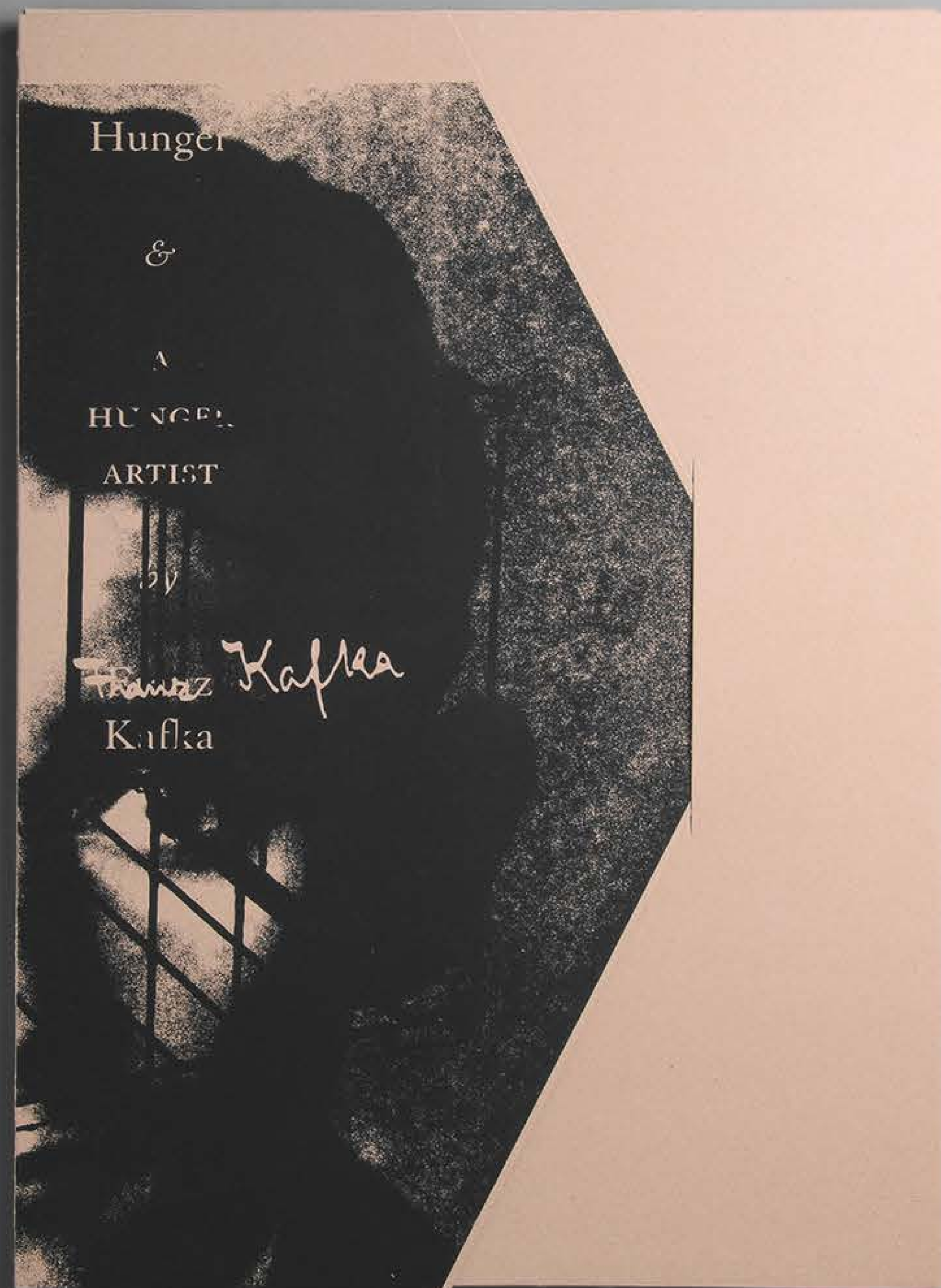
ARTIST

*by*

~~Franz~~  
Kafka

*Kafka*





'Hunger & A Hunger Artist'

Various Artists

Published by Void

HUNGER – ISSUE N° 1

- 1.1 Dylan Hausthor  
& Paul Guilmoth
- 1.2 Antoine d'Agata
- 1.3 Klavdij Sluban

HUNGER – ISSUE N° 2

- 2.1 Theo Elias
- 2.2 Romy Alizée
- 2.3 Bérangère Fromont
- 2.4 Chris Shaw

HUNGER – ISSUE N° 3

- 3.1 Olivier Pin-Fat
- 3.2 Albert Elm
- 3.3 Wiktoria Wojciechowska
- 3.4 Christian Vium

HUNGER – ISSUE N° 4

- 4.1 Joan Fontcuberta
- 4.2 Tolo Parra
- 4.3 Ben Altman
- 4.4 Laura Rodari

HUNGER – ISSUE N° 5

- 5.1 Erik Kessels
- 5.2 Erik van der Weijde
- 5.3 Hiro Tanaka
- 5.4 Alix Marie

HUNGER – ISSUE N° 6

- 6.1 Thomas Sauvin
- 6.2 Margot Wallard
- 6.3 Julie van der Vaart
- 6.4 Leif Sandberg

HUNGER – ISSUE N° 7

- 7.1 JH Engström
- 7.2 Yoshi Kametani
- 7.3 Tereza Zelenkova
- 7.4 Alexander Binder

*Hunger*

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Alexander Binder  
Alix Marie  
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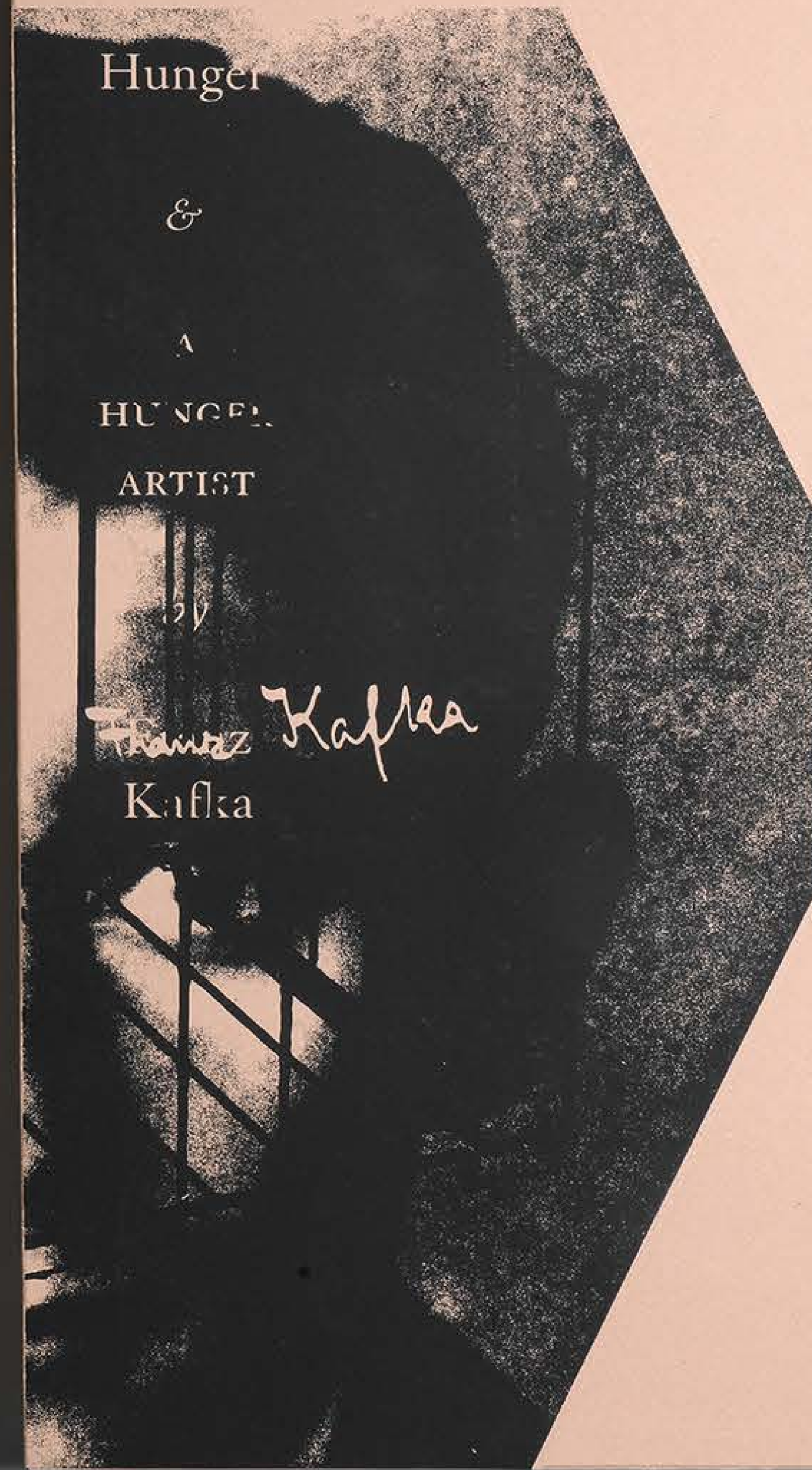
HUNGER

ARTIST

by

Thomas  
Kafka

Kafka



**28 Artists**

**7 Broadsheet newspapers**

**1 Franz Kafka's short story**

'Hunger'

Photographs by  
Albert Elm, Alexander Binder, Alix Marie,  
Antoine d'Agata, Ben Altman,  
Bérangère Fromont, Chris Shaw, Christian  
Vium, Dylan Hausthor & Paul Guilmoth,  
Erik Kessels, Erik van der Weijde, Hiro  
Tanaka, JH Engström, Joan Fontcuberta,  
Julie van der Vaart, Klavdij Sluban, Laura  
Rodari, Leif Sandberg, Margot Wallard,  
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Tolo Parra, Wiktoria Wojciechowska,  
Yoshi Kametani

Text by Franz Kafka

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For full information, [click here.](#)

34 x 50 cm

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of 100 copies

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Hunger 6 - ISBN: 978-618-83825-4-1  
Hunger 7 - ISBN: 978-618-83825-8-9

+ A silkscreen poster by Michael Ackerman

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! Spare issues also available







# HUNGER

The background of the project is Franz Kafka's short story 'A Hunger Artist' that tells the story of a starving artist that keeps his practice with the same (or maybe more) passion even after the public's interest diverges to different and new forms of amusement.

YOU ARE A PHOTOGRAPHER.  
YOU ARE A STARVING ARTIST.

The art you chose is, as a starting point, a practice that had its golden days in past times. Its very own status as art is sometimes put in check. The hype and the new forms of art and amusement might divert part of the crowd's interest away.

Even though it is each time more difficult to define what is "photography", if you define yourself as a "photographer", you are doing it for passion and necessity.

Hunger artists don't choose to do their art. They must do it. For themselves. For their passion.

Hunger & 'A Hunger Artist'

The complete series of newspapers assemble the whole short text by Franz Kafka: 'A Hunger Artist'.

FRANZ KAFKA

night's vigil without a breakfast, merely for the sake of the cause, they made themselves scarce, although they stuck stubbornly to their suspicions.


Such suspicions, anyhow, were a necessary accompaniment to the profession of fasting. No one could possibly watch the hunger artist continuously, day and night, and so no one could produce first-hand evidence that the fast had really been rigorous and continuous; only the artist himself could know that, he was therefore bound to be the sole completely satisfied spectator of his own fast. Yet for other reasons he was never satisfied; it was not perhaps mere fasting that had brought him to such skeleton thinness that many people had regretfully to keep away from his exhibitions, because the sight of him was too much for them, perhaps it was dissatisfaction with himself that had worn him down. For he alone knew, what no other initiate knew, how easy it was to fast. It was the easiest thing in the world. He made no secret of this, yet people did not believe him, at the best they set him down as modest, most of them, however, thought he was out for publicity or else was some kind of cheat who found it easy to fast because he had discovered a way of making it easy, and then had the impudence to admit the fact, more or less. He had to put up with all that, and in the course of time had got used to it, but his inner dissatisfaction always rankled, and never yet, after any term of fasting—this must be granted to his credit—had he left the cage of his own free will. The longest period of fasting was fixed by his impresario at forty days, beyond that term he was not allowed to go, not even in great cities, and there was good reason for it, too. Experience had proved that for about forty days the interest of the public could be stimulated



Story of... I listen, I... translate force... cipals realize... of Marseille, on... fight with riot... depth and persp... prevails and I assu... ders my actions. I com... landscapes of war and... of prostration through... gies to move inside the fi... tence, multiplies and trac... behind it. I generate imag... remains nameless. Language... ance to disappearance and accu... one stream of life. I become a cha...



A HUNGER ARTIST 243



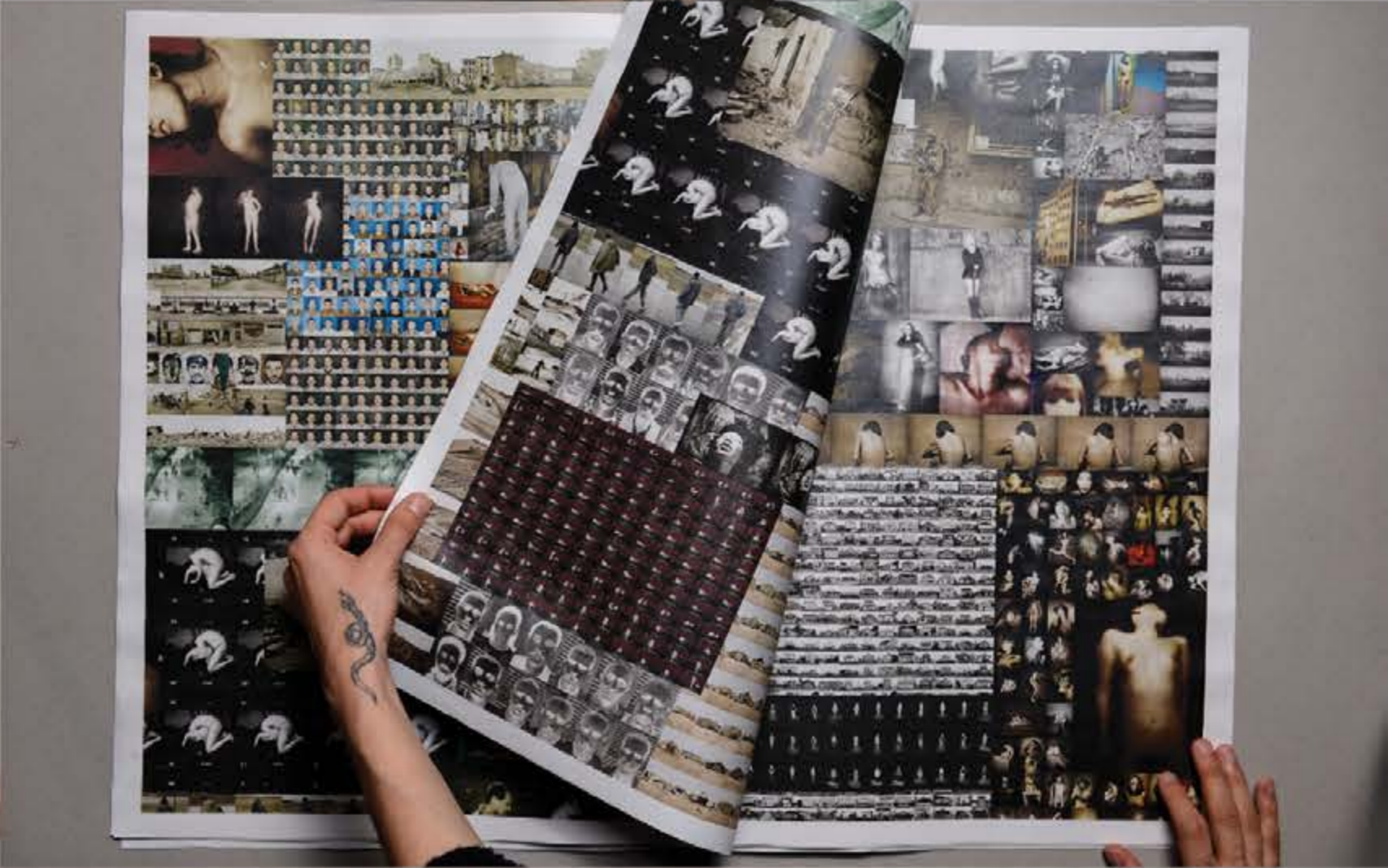
A Hunger Artist

DURING THESE last decades the interest in professional fasting has markedly diminished. It used to pay very well to stage such great performances under one's own management, but today that is quite impossible. We live in a different world now. At one time the whole town took a lively interest in the hunger artist; from day to day of his fast the excitement mounted; everybody wanted to see him at least once a day; there were people who bought season tickets for the last few days and

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sat from morning till night in front of his small barred cage; even in the nighttime there were visiting hours, when the whole effect was heightened by torch flares; on fine days the cage was set out in the open air, and then it was the children's special treat to see the hunger artist; for their elders he was often just a joke that happened to be in fashion, but the children stood open-mouthed, holding each other's hands for greater security, marveling at him as he sat there pallid in black tights, with his ribs sticking out so prominently, not even on a seat but down among straw on the ground, sometimes giving a courteous nod, answering questions with a constrained smile, or perhaps stretching an arm through the bars so that one might feel how thin it was, and then again withdrawing deep into himself, paying no attention to anyone or anything, not even to the all-important striking of the clock that was the only piece of furniture in his cage, but merely staring into vacancy with half-shut eyes, now and then taking a sip from a tiny glass of water to moisten his lips.

Besides casual onlookers there were also relays of permanent watchers selected by the public, usually butchers, strangely enough, and it was their task to watch the hunger artist day and night, three of them at a time, in case he should have some secret recourse to nourishment. This was nothing but a formality, instituted to reassure the masses, for the initiates knew well enough that during his fast the artist would never in any circumstances, not even under forcible compulsion, swallow the smallest morsel of food; the honor of his profession forbade it. Not every watcher, of course, was capable of understanding this, there were often groups of night watchers who were very lax in carrying





© Joan Fontcuberta

'Hunger & A Hunger Artist'



'Hunger & A Hunger Artist'





© Laura Rodari

'Hunger & A Hunger Artist'

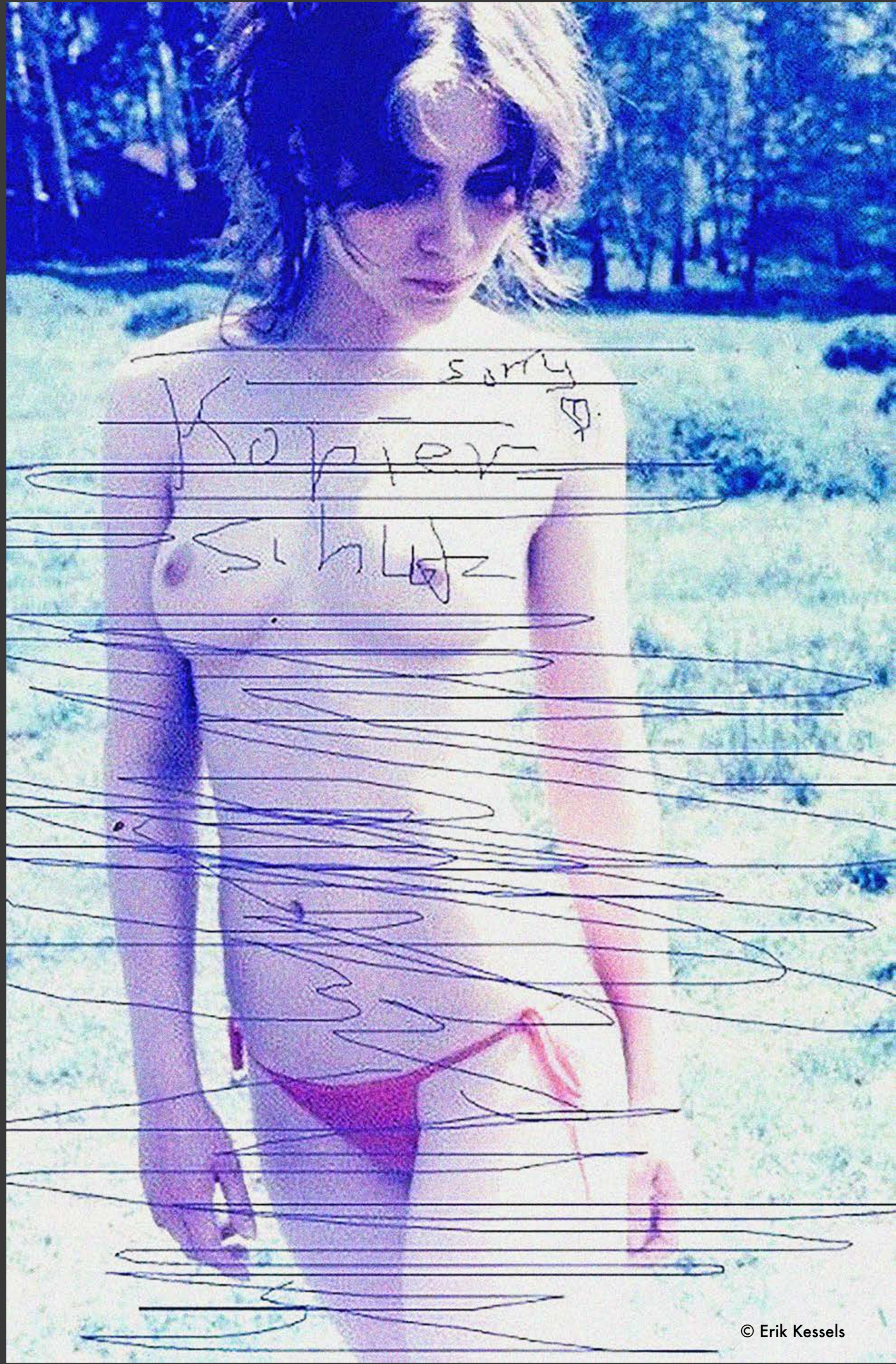


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