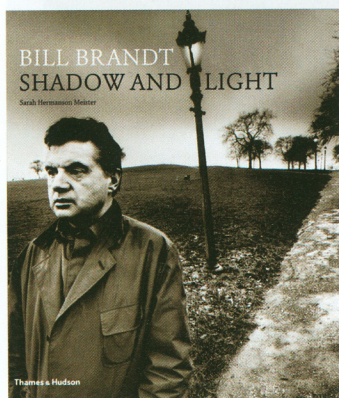


BOOK REVIEWS



Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light

Sarah Hermanson
Meister

- ▣ Thames & Hudson
- ▣ Hardback, £34.95
- ▣ ISBN 978 0500544242

There are some photographers who quite simply stand out beyond all others, and Bill Brandt is one. His vast breadth of subject matter, from landscapes to celebrities and reportage to nudes is impressive, but beyond that there is the simple artistry of his ever searching eye. He could take the simplest of subject matter and make it exquisite, transformed from its original state into his own distinctive vision.

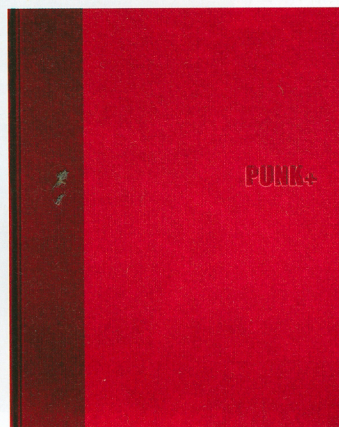
Brandt's work is a landmark in the history of the medium and he is a founding figure of its modernist traditions. He achieved considerable acclaim during his lifetime but, because his oeuvre was so extensive, there has been a tendency to view it not as a whole, but in the different genres.

Now published to coincide with an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York this summer, *Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light* gives an insight not only into his image making and printing, but also into the man himself.

Clare Sawyer

ON THE SHELF

We bring you the best of the newly published photography books

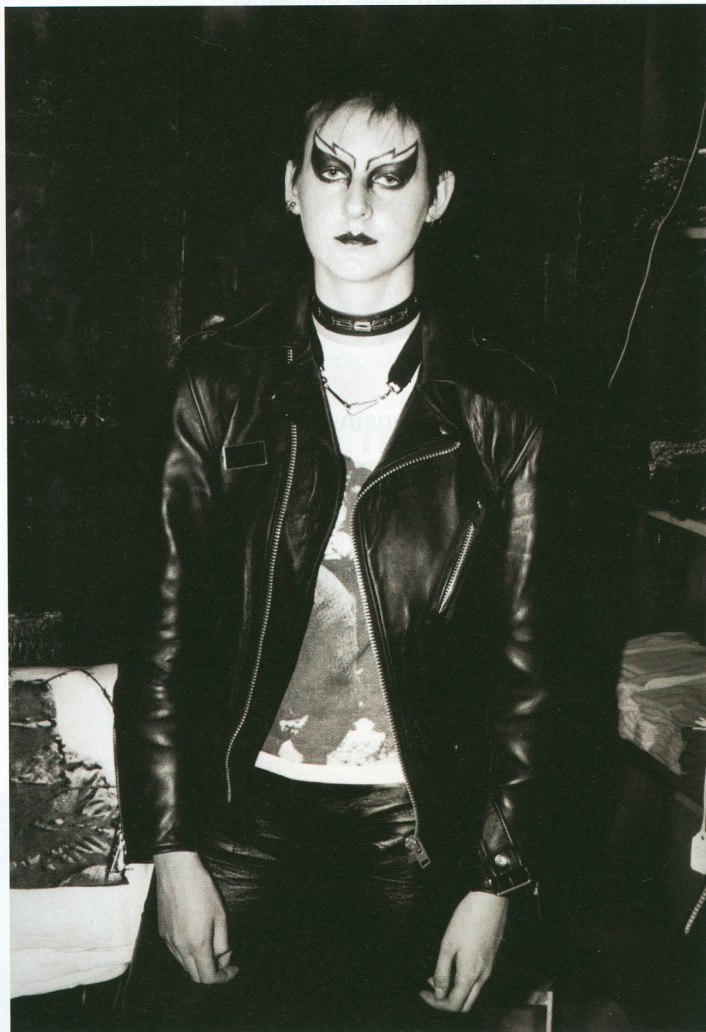


PUNK+

By Sheila Rock

- ▣ First Third Books
- ▣ Hardback, limited and signed edition of 2,000 available from firstthirdbooks.com at £49 – also available through Rough Trade East and Browns of South Molton Street from 25 April
- ▣ Deluxe edition of 300 with numbered and signed photograph of The Clash, also available from firstthirdbooks.com at £99
- ▣ ISBN 979 10 90892 01 9

When the young Sheila Rock set out in the mid 1970s, with a fascination for the new phenomena of punk and an interest in photography, she little realised that some 40-odd years later her work would reveal the zeitgeist of this major turning point in cultural history. 'These photographs sat dormant in a box for years until they were laid out in this coherent way; I didn't realise what an



interesting moment in history I had recorded,' she says at the beginning of *Punk+*, a new limited edition book of the work that was to launch her career as a photographer.

The photographs (the majority in black & white) are edgy and raw, reflecting their subject matter. They are as much about the clothes and

attitude of the youth culture as they are about the music. In the face of mass unemployment and economic gloom, this rebellious youth culture took on a way of life that was totally at odds with its generation. It was, in fact, to have far reaching effects in terms of both political and cultural change. And Sheila was one of the few photographers who photographed as it were 'from the inside', on the streets, at gigs and in the now famous boutiques on the King's Road.

When punk became mainstream in the late 70s, Sheila continued to photograph the new sub-genres that emerged from it, working on the music, fashion and culture magazine *The Face*.

A beautifully produced book that encapsulates a particular time in our history, in photographs that are both unique and individual.

Elizabeth Roberts

