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VISUAL COMMUNICATION **SELECTED WORKS**

Logo design (Association for urban history Karlsruhe)
Tasks: Concept Development, Design

PORTFOLIO – Igor Kuzmic





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Book, 176 pages (Heinrich Böll Foundation)
Tasks: Concept Development, Design, Coordination, Print Supervision

PORTFOLIO – Igor Kuzmic



Good news! This book counteracts the dominance of bad news in the media and provides numerous examples of positive change from all over the world. The focus is on people who are determined to put a stop to violence, oppression, gender inequality, poverty, and destruction of the environment. Individuals can make a start, but it takes many people to truly bring about transformation. The reports in this book describe courageous women and men who have been able to motivate and inspire other people – good news for everyone!

32 Rwanda

Abena Mukamana is a case in point. She now employs six workers and produces four times as much coffee as her father and husband did. They sold their poorer-quality beans for local consumption. Her finer grade is largely for export, roasted overseas and sold in coffee shops and specialty stores around the world.

"I'm proud of this," Mukamana says. "I never would have thought that I would be in a situation like this." Her total family income is five times what it previously was – earnings that she has used to improve family life. For example, she has renovated the family home, a modest space of plain cement walls.

"I think that boys and girls are different than they used to be," says Patrick Shema, a secondary school pupil. "Today, women are in business; before, if a woman had some money, she would have had to give it to the man. Women could not compete against a man. But now they are competing and doing better."

Perhaps more importantly for Abena Mukamana, who only attended primary school, is that 19-year-old Alice Mukakalisa, her oldest female charge, is set to graduate from high school this year. Mukakalisa hopes to become an accountant and Mukamana has promised to pay for her higher education.

Nevertheless, by Western standards, women still have a long way to go in Rwanda. Many of the women in Ndego whose husbands are alive are expected to ask for permission before engaging in any form of business. But some of the women who inherited land from genocide victims have been able to use the profits from farming or leasing the land to gain a measure of financial independence.

By all accounts, initiatives by Rwanda's women are providing great encouragement to "women from other parts of Africa who are taking on more and more leadership roles" says Dr Karambu Ringera, the founder of International Peace Initiatives, a global network of individuals and organisations seeking innovative and sustainable methods of overcoming the devastation of disease, conflict and poverty in the world today through education, enterprise and empowerment.

(October 2010, updated in August 2013 by Ute Scheub)

Hope Mubazi is a Rwandan journalist.

The Breakthrough for Women Only Came after the War

By Sham Jeanne Hakizimana

Bujumbura, Burundi. The term "umunyakigo" in Kirundi – Burundi's national language – literally means somebody in the backyard and is used to designate a girl. This word is a clear indication of the place of girls and women in traditional Burundi society. They were totally excluded from public life, the strict preserve of men, who would speak for them at all times.

"When a man says he will first think before taking an important decision, he generally wants to consult his wife, but he will never admit it," says Deo Bigirimana, a member of the Bashingantahe (Wiseman) institution in Bujumbura, the Burundi capital.

Although women's roles were not valued, they nevertheless acted as advisors.

Throughout history, Burundi women kept this role in the background in spite of their active fight for gender equality. For instance, until very recently, out of more than 20 ministers in the Burundi government, there was only one woman, who invariably represented the Ministry of Women.

Now Burundi women can look back and see that they have come a long way. They have made great strides towards gender equality, even if there is still much to be done.

The decade-long civil war left deep and unhealed wounds, but it also acted as an eye-opener for women, allowing them to leave their role of eternal victims to become agents of their own destiny and key players in the reconciliation process.

Pélagie Nduwayo, head of the organisation Solidarité pour Aider les Sinistrés Burundais (SASB), recalls that at a site for internally displaced persons (IDPs) one day, she felt shattered when she saw the conditions of absolute poverty in which women and children were living. "I decided to do something about it. We could not stand still while women and children were dying," she recalls.

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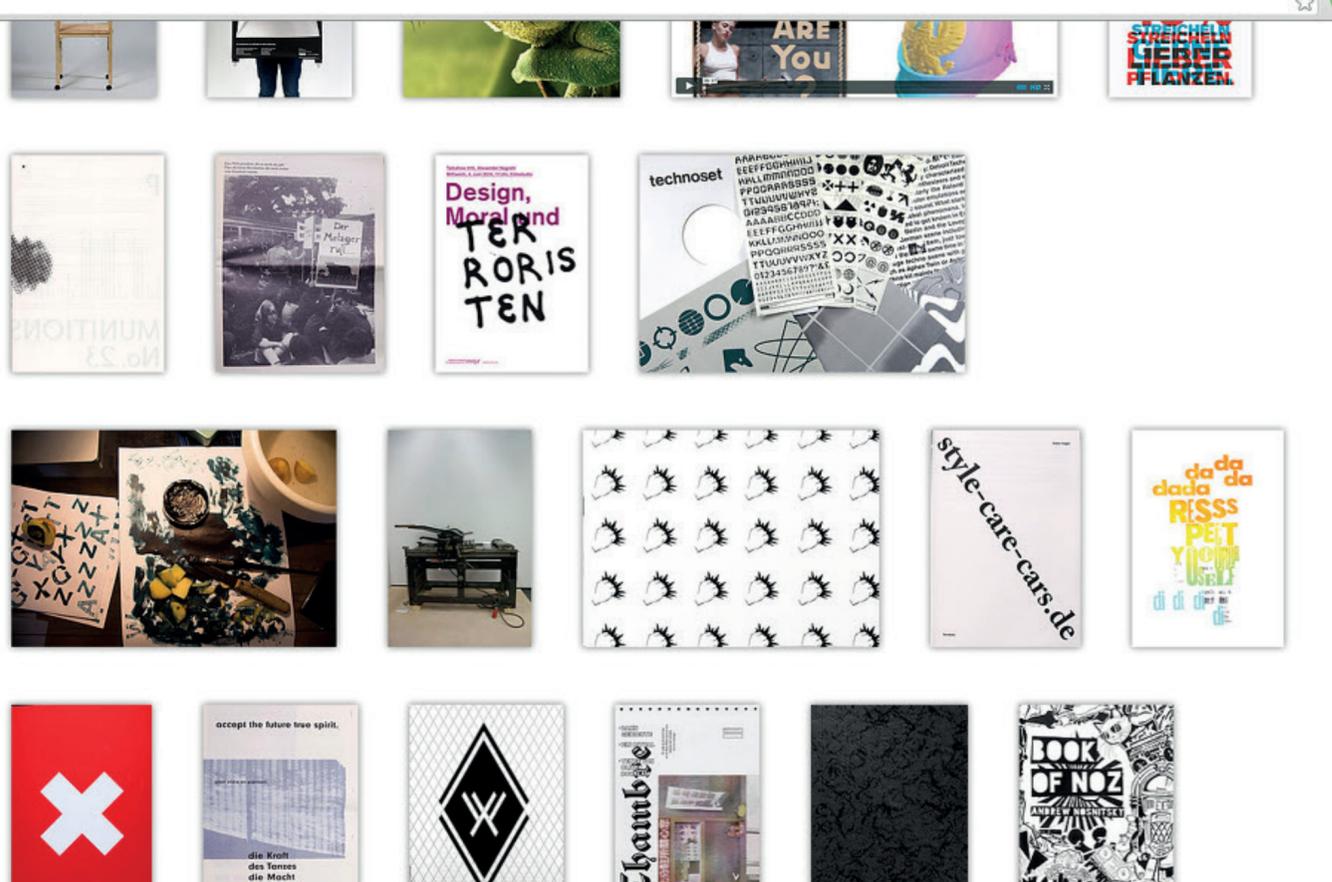
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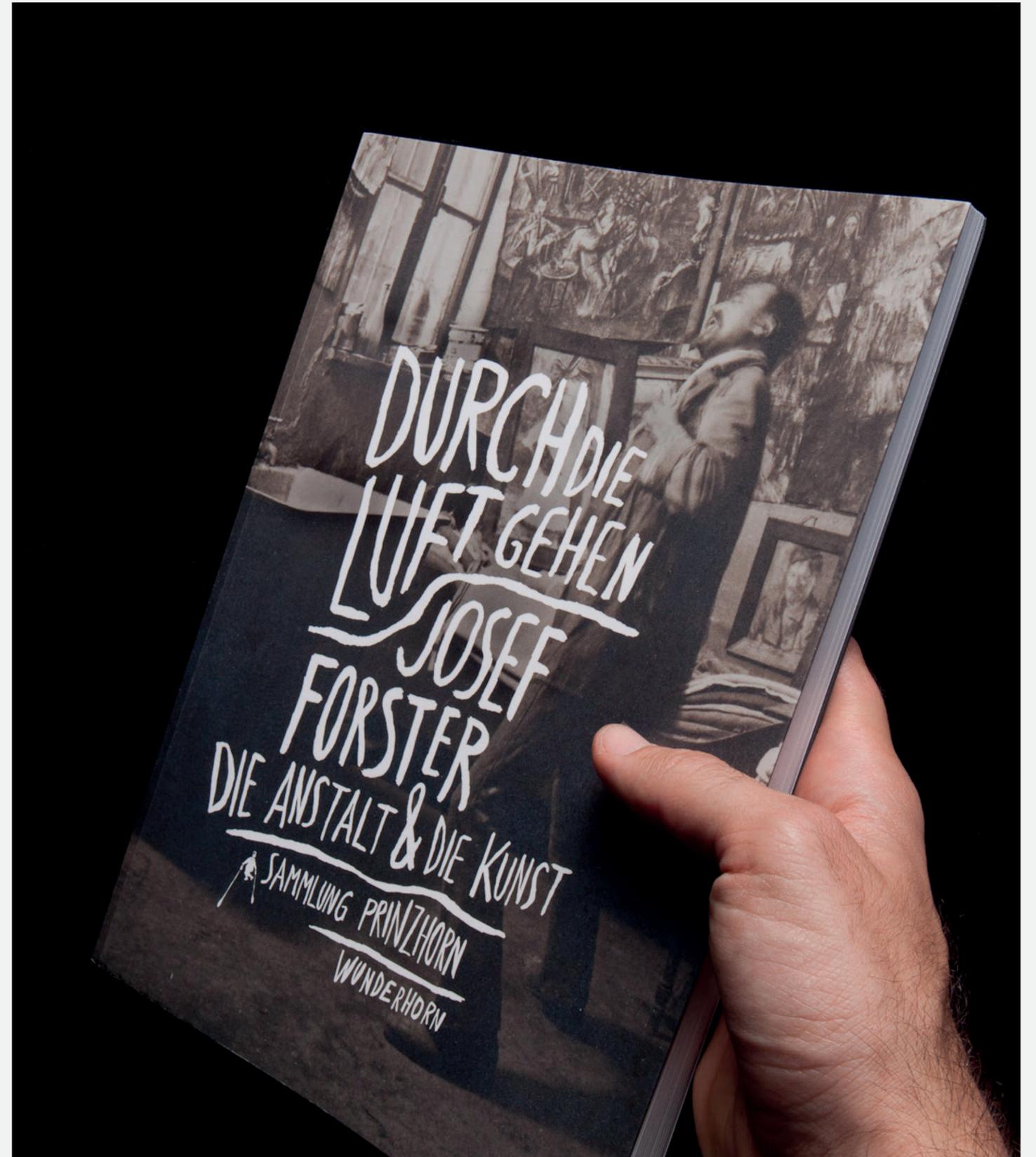
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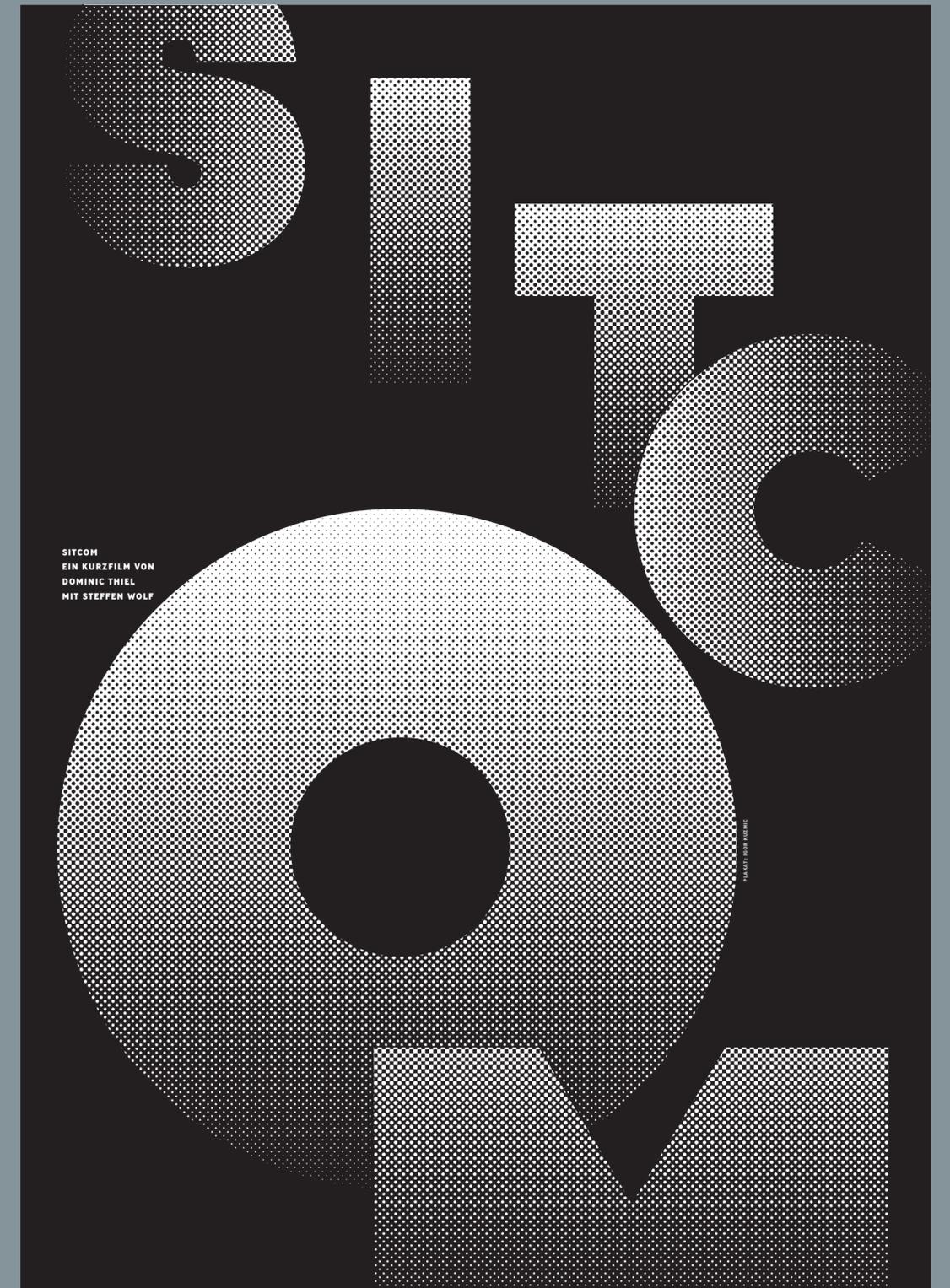
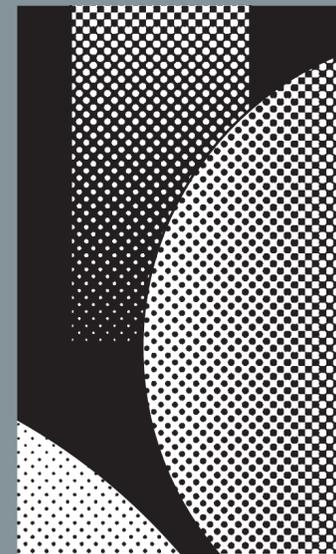
The portfolio grid displays a variety of design works. Notable items include a poster with the text 'Design, Moral and TERRORISTEN', a poster titled 'technoset' with a complex geometric pattern, a poster with 'style-care-cars.de', a poster with 'dada RISS PET YOUNG USEFUL', a poster with 'BOOK OF NOZ', a poster with 'Chambre', a poster with 'accept the future two spirit.', a poster with 'die Kraft des Tones die Macht der Nacht.', a poster with a large white 'X' on a red background, a poster with a diamond shape containing a white 'W', and a poster with 'ARE YOU'.

Book, 260 pages (Prinzhorn Collection)
Tasks: Concept Development, Design, Coordination, Print Supervision

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Exhibition Design (Art Society Karlsruhe)
Tasks: Concept Development, Design, Print Supervision
In Collaboration with Jonas Fechner

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