



AFTERHOURS BOOKS

ISLAND OF THE SPIRITS

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By John Stanmeyer

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Ghosts hover everywhere on Bali. At least that is what the inhabitants of this Indonesian island believe, who see their lives as connected with an 'other world.' Balinese spiritual culture, a mixture of Hinduism, animism and Islam, was one of the last in the world to have developed in all isolation. Because of that, centuries-old ceremonies and rituals survive down to this day. International award-winning photographer, John Stanmeyer, spent five years creating this reportage whilst using a camera known as a Holga. His photographs appear to have been made decades ago, stressing the historicity of the spiritual culture on Bali in deeply-layered ways never seen on Balinese culture.

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