

AMA LUR

Reviewed by Marcin Grabowieki.

Ama Lur lacks any words. The only text we find in the book is a colophon on the side of the white cardboard slipcase with black graphics. Jon Cazenave's book consists of black and white photographs, which interpretation he leaves up to us. I've already found it's modest, ascetic form appealing when I first saw the book at the Cosmos Arles Books 2015. I liked the way it appeals to reader's imagination and intuition.

The fluid narration guides us from the rocky coast through the details of human body, mountains and waters, to the stars sparkling in the sky. The way the themes interweave is astounding. The pattern of bubbles on the water surface is mirrored by something that resembles a wet fur, while grooves in the rock resemble woman's body silhouette. It's often hard to be sure what those not-far-from-abstract photographs shows. It's not that important though. It's the aforementioned likeness of themes that is crucial here. The unity of the universe, hidden in the diversity of nature. Patterns, shapes and lines are repeated along it's features. Scratches on the stone resemble finger prints and the light shining through the clouds looks like a splashing wave.

Those simple, archetypical images, everyone bears inside, artfully juxtaposed, invokes feelings of balance and overall sense. This study of elements leads to reflections on the constancy of the forces of nature and it's universal character. Everything passes, and our lives are just crumbs of the eternity. The power of this book lies in it's universal nature and nuances we notice each time we come back to it.