

Four Corners Books & The Vanity Press

Heart of Darkness

By Joseph Conrad

A work by Fiona Banner

Photographs by Paolo Pellegrin

Designer: John Morgan

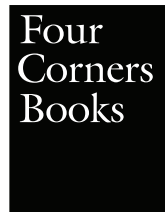
Four Corners Familiars number 12

In 2012, Fiona Banner was invited to select an exhibition of works drawn from the Archive of Modern Conflict, a London-based collection of photographs and ephemera relating to war and conflict. After much time delving into the archive, Banner observed a lack of images relating to conflict in the here and now. In a reversal of roles, Banner commissioned Paolo Pellegrin, a conflict photographer who has worked extensively in the Congo, to observe the City of London – its streets and trading floors, its costume and strip-clubs – through Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. The resulting photographs were first exhibited at Peer, London under the title *Mistah Kurtz – He Not Dead*.

A selection of these images now form part of the Archive, they can be found filed under 'Heart of Darkness, 2014'. They also form the illustrations for this new publication of Conrad's novella, which takes the form of a luxury magazine.

Heart of Darkness (first published in 1899) is a story of trade and corruption, and of our own conflicts and desires. From a boat moored on the banks of the Thames, Marlow narrates his story in which he travels to the heart of the Congo in search of renegade ivory trader Kurtz, who has mesmerised and enslaved his workers.

Like many artists of her generation Banner has lived just outside the boundaries of London's financial district since the early 90s observed the area's close proximity to the Square Mile and its apparent separation from it. This publication links with Banner's first artist book *The Nam* (1997) that references *Apocalypse Now*, a film that uses Conrad's text as its narrative template.



Heart of Darkness will be presented in two forthcoming solo exhibitions of work by Fiona Banner:

SCROLL DOWN AND KEEP SCROLLING at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (10 October 2015 - 17 January 2016) is the most comprehensive exhibition of Banner's work to date, re-presenting key early projects alongside recent and unseen works that span a period of 25 years. It will be accompanied by a major new artist book of the same title.

FONT is a solo exhibition of new work by Fiona Banner at Frith Street Gallery, London (from 18 September 2015).

Heart of Darkness

Magazine format. 320 pages. 24.5 x 32.5 cm.

160 images in black and white / colour.

ISBN 978-1-909829-05-3

£11.99

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