



by Matthew Robert Joseph

This book is dedicated to Graeme "Cockwomble" Jago.

'Sup.

The title of this book, ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ is 2019 represented in Braille. I'm sorry ok? I'm running out of ideas for how to represent numbers, if you have any ideas please contact me.

Welcome to the 9th year of this Xmas Book/newsletter/show off book thing. Was it just me or did this year go by particularly quickly?

We didn't leave the country again this year. We did lots of walks. I started home developing my B&W film. I bought faulty 3D printed large format camera and sent it back. I bought a large format lens that wasn't large format and sent it back. I bought another 3D printed large format camera that I inspired. I took photos of rubbish. I bought a faulty camera and couldn't send it back. I got interviewed by some cool dudes. I bought an upper mid range compact digital camera. I bought a \$10 panorama camera. We spent a week down at the hot pools in Mornington. I took photos of rubbish. I spent a few days in Brisbane to see a band. I bought another plastic camera. We had mini adventures. We went to the tulip festival. We went to Caribbean Gardens. I used my old Holga. I hung out with some cool photographers. I took photos of rubbish.

So what sort of photos should you expect this year? Rubbish, people, buildings, rubbish, cameras, flowers, people taking photos of rubbish flowers, more people, more rubbish and last but not least, rubbish.

Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year!

Cheers,

MRJ.

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It's almost tradition now that I start each book with a photo from the previous year that was taken after the last book was made. This was taken on a disposable camera, I was on my way from seeing "Into the Spider-Verse" with Rob (what a great fucking film that was to see on IMAX) to Ambré at her knitting group Xmas party.

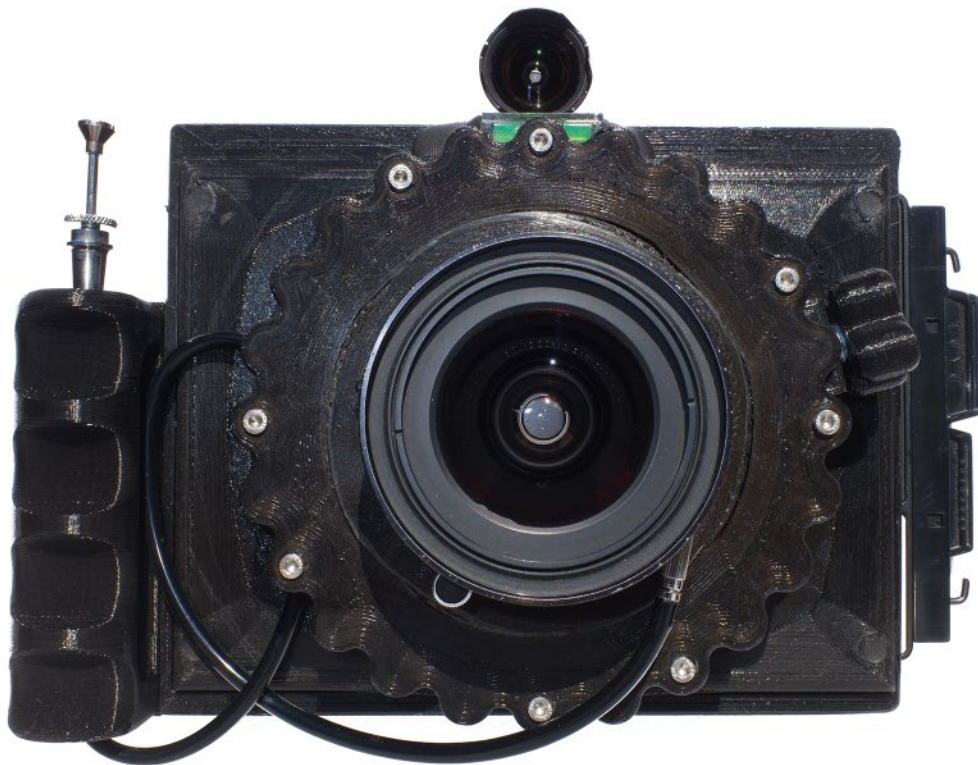


This shot was from the first roll of film that I have developed myself for some time. I sold the Mamiya 7 late last year so I could photographically explore new things, I hadn't really used it a year or so plus the Fuji, that this was taken on, is very comparable. One of the new things included gear to develop my own black and white because...

I bought a large format camera!

There is a bit of a story that goes with this so please excuse the destruction of my layout for the sake of the said story.

1. So I sold the Mamiya 7 late in 2018 because I hadn't really used it for about a year and I didn't like the thought of all that money sitting on the shelf not getting used. I had also been thinking about giving large format photography a crack but obviously on my terms, which are ultra wide angle and hand held, not ideal for large format photography. And because I had left the lab I was now faced with the prospect of having to pay retail for processing so it seemed like the perfect time to start processing B&W myself.



2. I contacted a guy on Instagram about modifying this weird looking large format camera that he makes, he basically said no, but yes if you show me the money and that there was a similar product already available to buy called the Mercury. So I bought a Schneider Super Angulon 47mm XL lens and a Mercury camera. The lens arrived and it didn't seem right, after some investigation my suspicions were correct, it was not the lens that was described, so after much back and forth emailing I returned the lens and bought the right lens from another seller.

3. In the meantime the Mercury had arrived and when the replacement lens arrived I assembled it. I shot a couple of test shots and they looked great except for some fogging. Was it the camera? Was it the film holders? Was it me? I contacted the guy that made it, not possible he said, I then contacted some experts that I knew and they all said it's the camera. I waited until it was dark and shone the light from my phone into the camera, I could see light, so I sent the piece of shit back.

Then Ethan, (Hi Ethan) the guy that makes the weird looking cameras contacts me and says I've designed you a camera, it's printing now.

And that's the story of how the Cameradactyl OG was born.

So it's basically a large format point and shoot camera that I don't need to focus because of the ultra wide angle, the negatives are just over 10x12cm, normal 35mm frames are 3.6x2.4cm so the resolution is quite impressive.



This is one of the first non-test shots with the Cameradactyl, I included a couple of zoomed in bits so you get an idea of the resolution of the lens while still being ultra wide angle. This is all quite camera nerdy even by my standards, I will try and make it less nerdy from now on ok? Ugh, every time that question mark gets me, so ugly.



I took this one at Chadstone: The Fashion Capital locally known as Chaddy with the Fuji GA645WV. I still really like this camera. I think this was the only roll of colour I put through it this year, I'd really like to start developing colour at home but that's going to require a bit more gear and a bit more care. I'll get there one day.



These two cool dudes are Alex and Josh from Decaffeinated Photography, back in Feb they wanted to interview me and talk to me about photography down an alleyway in Camberhell for their YouTube channel. Then we went on a short photo walk around Camberhell with the Xpan and they made another video about that.



Here is a shot that I took on the Xpan with the two cool dudes from Decaf. While on the photo walk I realised I was letting a couple of twenty-somethings use the Xpan without a camera strap and I thought to myself "Next time someone wants to use the Xpan I'd probably better organise a neck strap for it". To be continued...



This photo was a late addition to the book as I felt the Cameradactyl needed more love. This was taken in Elwood. Despite the damage to the negative either due to my overly rigorous processing technique or ham fisted camera handling it was very popular on Flickr. Poor Flickr, I will miss the old Flickr. Good times. Good people. Good arguments. RIP.



I did a photo walk around Box Hill with Alex and his friend Dale. Alex wanted to take Dale's portrait and this happened. I don't know what this guy was looking for but he had absolutely no interest in us or what we were doing down a back alley in Box Hill. This was also the day that I bought the Olympus XA and they last day that it worked.



I bought a Fuji XF10, a digital point and shoot camera & this photo is exactly why, perfect in focus snapshots at any ISO day or night. This shot was taken at the zoo with our friends Kaaren and Siimon, there was a lot of fake smoke and art and shit and not many animals. Exorcist vibes were strong all night long because of the smoke.



Here's another shot with the XF10.

I couldn't work out why this long empty office building in Mont Albert had a big cross in the foyer. Later this year we found out that The Salvation Army had an office there!



So I got to hang out with this guy for a day back in back in April. This is Al aka @Trend2signif on Twitter, with a Twitter handle like that I was half expecting to be cat fished, he did explain to me what it means but I'm fucked if I can remember, some science thing. He's a rude boy as you can see but he did give me a roll of film which was nice. Hi Al.



I shot this while out shooting with Al. Yes that's a real functioning analogue photo booth, there used to be a few of them around Melbourne but I think this is the last one. They are owned and operated by Alan Adler the inventor of the AeroPress coffee press thing. I wanted Al and I to have our picture taken together like these two but he wasn't into it.



I had just had a lot of Hungry Jacks (Burger King) with my sometimes imaginary work buddy Ivan (Hi Ivan) and we were on our way to a going away party for another work colleague and I apparently blew Ivan's mind by pulling an old school camera out of my bag and taking a photo of this guy spouting his religious propaganda.



Now for a few digi shots so I can justify spending that sort of money on a digital point and shoot camera which I use to take photos that I could just use my phone for. It's got a small but powerful flash which funnily enough I actually used for this and the next few photos. I don't think my phone could have pulled this photo off actually.



I love it when people try to duck, especially when I am shooting wide angle which is nearly all of the time. Another flash shot with the XF10.



This photo probably got me on a list somewhere or at least a dishonourable mention in a private school newsletter. "Two of our students were flashed near some rubbish bins on the way home from school last night, he was a blading Caucasian wearing a black T-shirt, black puffy vest and black pants". Rubbish has been a theme this year, stay tuned.



Here is another Cameradactyl shot, an ultra wide angle favourite in Docklands, the Webb Bridge. We had just gorged ourselves at Yum Cha and we waddled our way along the Yarra River so I could take this photo. I just realised the Cameradactyl is underrepresented in this book so now I am going to have to find space for more photos.



Part of this photo was taken in the Emporium here in Melbourne and part of the photo was taken in Kansas in the USA. I did a film swap with Instagram friend Denise (@deniseg316). She shot on the roll and then posted it to me and then I loaded it in my camera and shot over the top creating a double exposure. HMU if you want to try it.



Now this was taken on a \$10 panorama camera. Hanimex Panorama 35. Not bad huh? This camera is also known as an Ansco Pix Panorama, a cultish toy camera that shoots cropped panoramas on 35mm film. I wanted to know if I could take awesome panos on a cheap pano camera. I first took a photo of this house back in 2013 on the Mamiya 7.



Centrefold Spread! You don't know what I went through to get this and keep this in the middle, tears were had, baskets were kicked, words were said, chickens were sacrificed. I took this on the XF10, not the aforementioned panorama camera. I guess you could say I am playing homage to myself because of my unstitched panorama that I took years ago



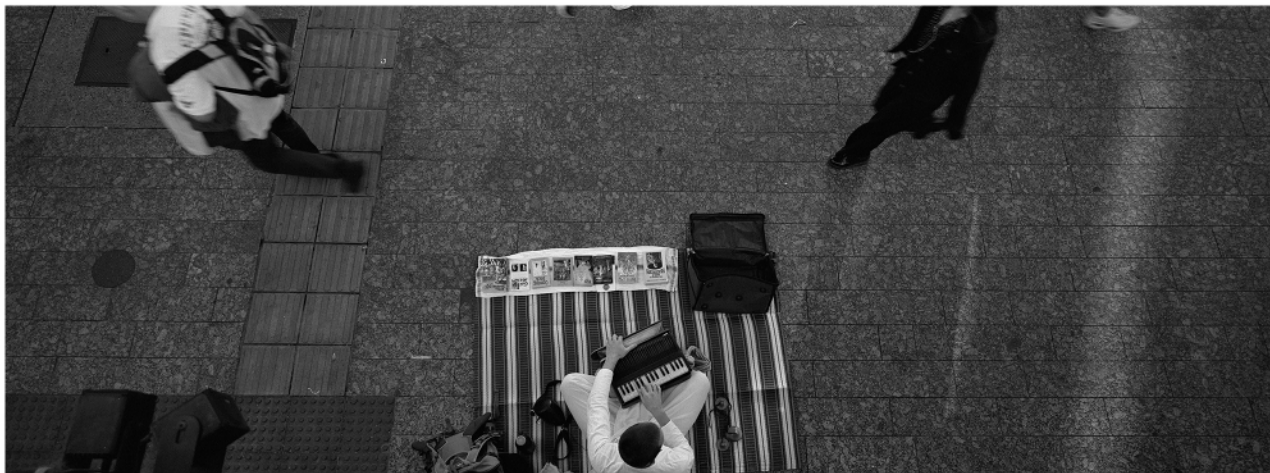
of the beach huts in Brighton. This was taken in Dromana when we're down there for our annual trip to the hot pools. I highly recommend the IGA supermarket in Dromana, the big chain supermarkets could learn a lot from them. A colleague of mine told me she once went there and there was an opera singer wandering around singing there. Classy.



Same house, different camera. This time the Cameradactyl. I took quite a few film holders with me on this trip and shot them all, most of the shots have a slightly more that usual tilt to them, somehow I managed to get this one dead on. I have since modded the camera myself by Sugruing a bubble level under the viewfinder. Sugru is like Blu Tack but forever.



My 2nd and last holiday this year was to Brisbane so I could see these magnificent bastards live again. Dreamkillers!!! I have been a massive fan since 1994. I saw the gig online, asked if they had a photog, they said no, so took the digis and ended up shooting all four bands from in front of the stage. Even got an awful selfie with Les. Good times!



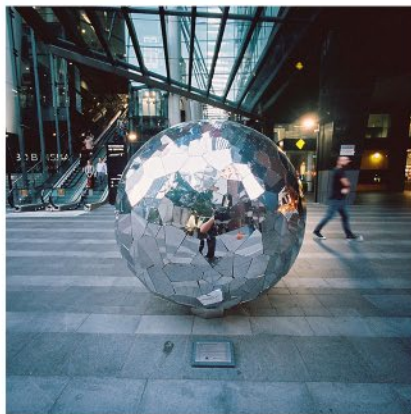
Ooo an above view! I do love an above view. This shot was taken in Brisbane on the Xpan. This guy was having a hell of a time sitting on his mat with his books and playing his music. There is something about the light in Brisbane at the end of the day, lots of glass bouncing it around. Melbourne has reflected light too, just not as much of it.



This photo was also taken in Brisbane on a panoramic camera but the \$10 panoramic camera not a super-expensive-one-day-it-won't-turn-on panoramic camera. Is there any difference between this shot and the last one? I'm serious, I need to know. Do they look \$3000 dollars different in this book? Is it possible I'm tricking you? Please write in.



While in Brisbane I met up with this handsome rogue, Matt Murray from the Matt Loves Cameras podcast. I let him use the Xpan for the day and he nearly dropped it. Despite what other stories you might hear about the event it was not my fault at all. Nope. I know how to put a strap on a camera. Matt loves taking photos of these pink fucking flowers.



Apparently while I was in Brisbane I was into taking photos of balls, well spherical objects at the very least. I can't remember if I said this last year or not and frankly I am too lazy to check but I can't believe how grown up Brisbane is now! Brisbane no longer seems like an immature teenager, definitely late 20s now. So proud of you Brisbane.



So the Sunny 16 Podcast issued a couple of challenges this year. I shot this for the self portrait challenge. I was taking selfies all over the Terracotta Warriors exhibition because there were lots of mirrors. I got in position and then the guy to my right saw what I was doing and decided to take a selfie at the same time with his son, while others watched.



Ambré and I went for yet another walk down at Elwood and this time I took the Voigtlander Bessa L & 12mm with me. As you may have noticed I don't really give a fuck about dust, scratches or violent processing marks anymore, I haven't got time to clone out that shit. And in case you were wondering Graeme, yes we did get a soft serve, choc dipped.



So I guess you could now consider it tradition for me to finger a few frames on a first roll through a new wide angle camera. Voigtlander, Mamiya now Vivitar. I don't think it would be possible to finger the Cameradactyl. The bottom left photo was one of my most popular photos this year, fucking figures, people have no taste #schadenfreude



Caribbean Gardens is an interesting place. Imagine if the worst amusement park you have ever been to had a baby with a flea market that could be closed down by a single coked up intellectual property lawyer in an afternoon, that would be Caribbean Gardens. Not pictured: The aviary full of pigeons and Vietnam era heavy military weapons.



I participated in #HolgaWeek this year. I borrowed my Holga from Ambré (which she hadn't used for at least 4 years, her Holga had a film in it from 2011) and shot some pics here and there. It was fun, I can certainly appreciate a toy camera more these days. Are my camera snobbery days coming to an end?

Nah.



Cameradactyl shot. Here is a photo of my country cousin Rhys. A photo or at least a mention of Rhys is almost a tradition in this book. People have come and gone from my life book for various reasons, I wonder why Rhys' reason will be? Maybe he didn't come to Melbourne enough to hang out with me? Maybe he gets terminal diarrhoea. ~\\_(\\_)/\\_~



Ambré and I went to St Kilda for a walk and I took the GA645W. This was shot on a roll of expired Ilford SFX gifted to me by Jack. Now I like this shot, another one I uploaded at the same time was more popular but, full disclosure, I put this one in because someone on Instagram said the person on the left looks like a penis. I mean how could I not?



It's late November, I have my usual panic about not having shot much recently, I DM an Instagram friend @foxfins and ask her if she wants to take some photos. She says yes. Oh fuck. I immediately die and then I am immediately resurrected by the photography gods. I bring the Xpan, she brings her Leica & 12mm and we meet in the CBD one morning.



This guy was covering up some graffiti on Punch Lane, he was telling us if he does this "they don't come back" and that he also does this without permission from the building owner or the council. When I walked away I thought to myself "How is he any different to the people who tagged the wall?" Street art comes in many forms.



What is this guy doing? Is he dancing? Is he ducking? They wanted to know why we were taking a photo of that plaque, I said because it had light on it. After this photo we went for a coffee at an apparently good coffee shop. Worst. Hot. Chocolate. Ever. Hi Melissa, sorry but it was shit. I was picking the chocolate out of my teeth for hours. 1/5 stars.



It's a miracle that this photo even exists. The last roll I developed in my 2nd bottle of CineStill Monobath. When it came out of the dev tank it was still quite under dev'ed even after extra developing due to how used the developer was so I dev'ed it some more, a lot more, when I pulled it out the emulsion was coming off. I Photoshopped the heavy damage.



As most of you will know I'm quite partial to the odd photo of hard rubbish, I like how people arrange their goods on the side of the road for collection by the council. When I



hung out with the boys from Decaf earlier this year I said on video, half jokingly "I'm a fan of rubbish". Well as it turns out I wasn't joking. I have taken over 150 photo this year of

rubbish alone, as you can see not just hard rubbish but actual rubbish, lost things, bins, dead things which are kind of rubbish, vomit, kids toys, mattress, oh my god mattresses and

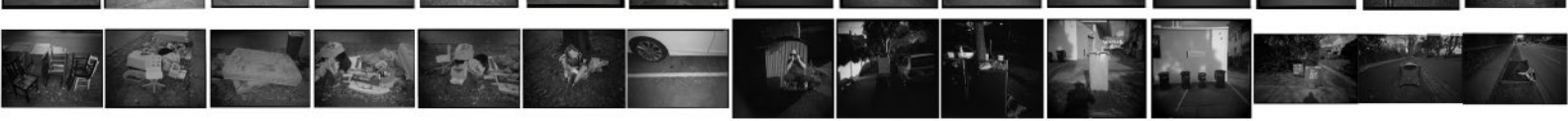


even a sword left in a park, that photo is right here ↓



Most of these are digital, quite a few were taken on my phone but there are a lot of film photos. I might have a problem. So next year I am going to try and not take as many

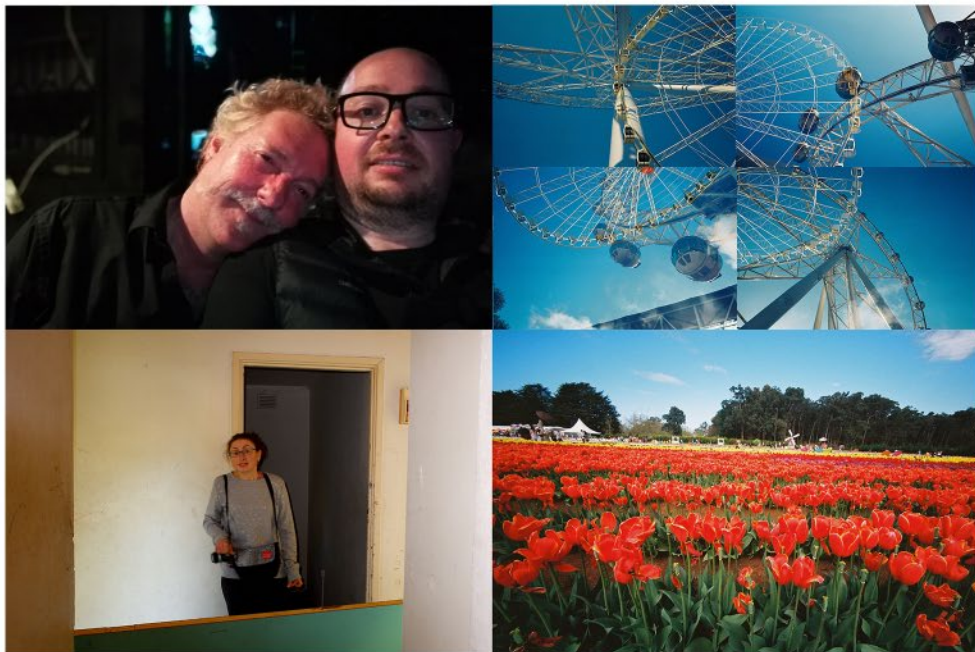
photos of rubbish, well at the very least non-rubbish photo of rubbish. Help me. I'm serious I need help. Call a doctor. Please.





The other cameras that I bought this year, in order.

- TL: Olympus XA - I needed a replacement for the Olympus mju-i, it worked well for one whole day and then promptly died. Repair or buy digital camera so I don't need to scan?
- TR: Fuji XF10 - Upper mid range compact digital camera, so smart and amazing quality. My only problem with this camera is that the lens is too good, I'd love a bit of vignetting.
- BL: Hanimex Panorama 35 - aka Ansco Pix Panorama, can I take good panoramas on a cheap panorama camera? Yes. Do I need to keep expensive panorama camera? Well.
- BR: Vivitar Ultra Wide & Slim - 22mm wide angle camera, no battery, no meter, no nothing, no worries, lots of vignetting, don't point it at anything that the sunlight isn't hitting.



Photos that almost didn't make it into the book.

TL: Here is the terrible selfie I took with Les Jobson, the lead singer and original member of Dreamkillers. We were both very sweaty. I bought a band T-shirt! At a gig! Imagine that.  
 TR: Matt from Matt Loves Cameras and I entered a double exposure photography contest together and we nearly won! Well not nearly, the judges seemed to like the photo tho.  
 BL: Here is a photo of my friend Kaaren trespassing! We did some Urbexing after going to a nearby cafe. She has GAS and she has started taking film photo this year. So proud.  
 BR: We went back to the fucking tulips this year & I shot my last roll of Agfa Ultra 100 in the Voigtländer & 12mm :( Later we went to a shitty Miss Marple themed cafe for scones.



And of course no book would be complete without a photo of Ambré at the end.

I nearly won a Sunny 16 Podcast Cheap Shots Challenge with this photo. Let's say 4th. Like I said at the time: Nothing can quite describe the exquisite feeling one gets in the tummy when you own thousands of dollars of camera gear and your favourite/best photo that you have taken this year was on a 52 year old \$10 piece of crap camera (Russell the Mamiya 528 TL). To make matters a little worse the film was given to me by Al when he was in Melbourne and was long, long expired. Photography huh! FML.

This book is actually dedicated to Jack “@knapjack” Johnson.

Jack sent me his Vivitar Ultra Wide & Slim and some other things including salmon jerky & film in exchange for a copy of this book and my undying admiration.

Hi Jack.

Thank you Jack.



Look, we all knew this would happen sooner or later, a full frontal naked photo of me on the back.

This is a collection of my favourite images that I have taken this year, 2019.

The title of the book, ⠠⠨⠠⠠⠠ is 2019 represented in Braille. I'm sorry ok, I'm running out of ideas for numbers.

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