



**There is tumult on Planet Photobook.** Photobook-makers are balancing on a tightrope as some try to make the step to the “online photobook”—not an e-book, but a place on the World Wide Web where the book is presented in a digital way with the possibilities that the Internet offers: interactivity, 3D environments, and sound. In this uneasy in-between time, it seems more often that just making a photobook, and presenting and distributing it is no longer enough.

The result is that there are a variety of entertaining events organized to translate the content of the photobook in an offbeat way—often a more participatory one, related to a time and place, which are also the basic features of performance. For instance, I attended Johan Rosenmunthe’s performance *Crystal Healing*, which was meant to boost his book *Tectonic* (SPBH Editions, 2014) during this year’s LA Art Book Fair. Luxuriously designed and printed, *Tectonic* is an illogical exploration of the occult and a spirited examination of photography’s alchemical potential. A core element in the book, and in Rosenmunthe’s broader interest, is stones, because of their original mystical element and because they transcend human life and experience. Through the photos in the book you can dive into Rosenmunthe’s exploration of the symbolism behind stones, their physical characteristics, and even their perceived healing powers.

Nobody ever got healed by a photo printed in a book. Attending *Crystal Healing* in person can bring you closer to the magical powers stuck behind the ink on *Tectonic*’s pages. Those powers, in fact, become part of you once you attend the performance. In Los Angeles, I lay down on the floor with some other human strangers. Our bodies formed a circle, with our heads in the middle. We each had the stone of our choice on our belly, forehead, or in our hands, and we were asked to generate sounds. Together we produced a strong tone resembling a gong, which brought us down to earth and led us to an almost meditative state of being. Rosenmunthe was able to transfuse his own belief in the healing power of stones into the participants through this lightweight and funny experience. In this case, there was a photobook, and then there was a performance; I’m not sure it’s the same thing as “the photobook as performance.” But what I am sure about is its effect. I felt enlightened; it was something like going from control-alt-delete to reset and back.

**Anouk Kruithof** is a Dutch artist currently based in New York. She also created this issue’s centerfold in collaboration with photographer Lieko Shiga. For more on Kruithof and the centerfold, see p. 15. [anoukkruithof.nl](http://anoukkruithof.nl)