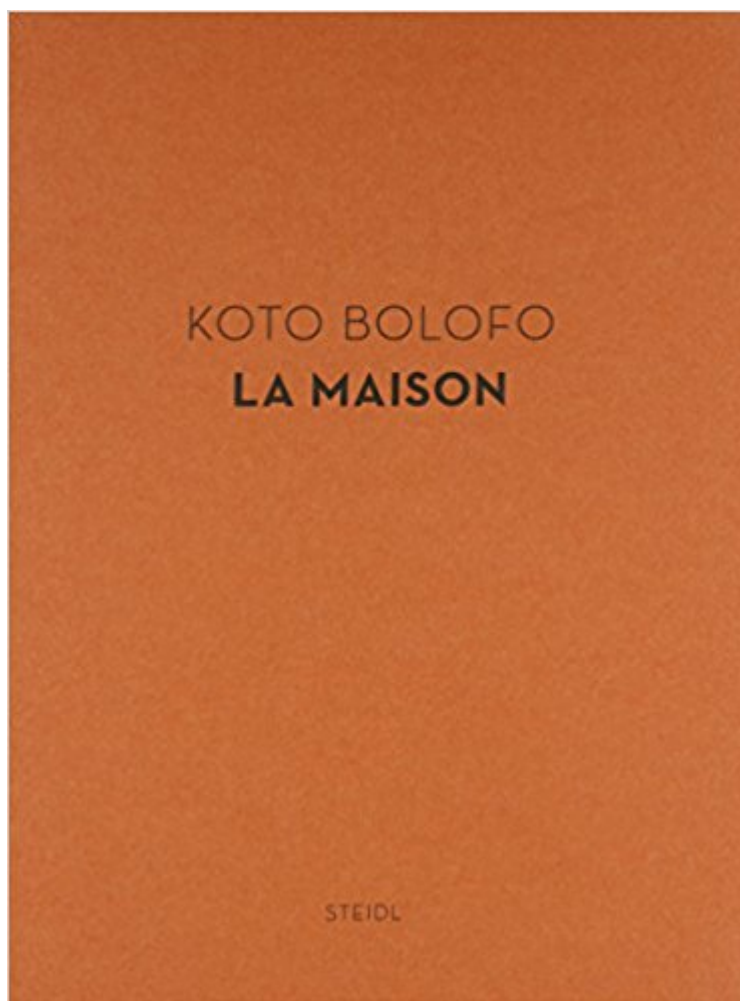


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Koto Bolofo: La Maison



Synopsis

For the past four years, innovative fashion photographer Koto Bolofo has had behind-the-scenes access to the Hermès fashion empire. Bolofo, well known for his portraits and fashion shoots, and published in such prestigious periodicals as Vogue, Esquire and i-D, came to Monde d'Hermès in 2004, when he met Hermès's head, Jean-Louis Dumas, one of 17 cousins who constitute the fifth generation heading the company. Bolofo recalls that "Mr. Dumas asked where I came from. I said South Africa. He asked what part. I said Lesotho. He was shocked and very excited. He explained that his great, great, great grandfather was a missionary in Lesotho and that the Zulus used to attack his mission, but the Sothos--my tribe--protected him... He called me his cousin and said that his cousin was welcome any time and I had carte blanche to photograph what I liked in Hermès." La Maison contains exclusive images made as Bolofo worked his way through Hermès' workshops, discovering how their wares are made, from handbags, perfumes, scarves, prêt-à-porter and shoes to the first accessory ever produced by the house: saddles. Nothing escaped his lens, not even the museum, a treasure trove of Hermès's history, tucked away on Rue du Faubourg St. Honoré.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Koto Bolofo was born in South Africa in 1959, but was raised in Great Britain after his family was forced to flee as political refugees. Bolofo's father, a history teacher, was found to have writings by Karl Marx among his teaching materials and was exiled for his supposed "communist practices."

After nearly 25 years absence, father and son returned to South Africa, which Koto documented in his short film *The Land is White, The Seed is Black*. Along with his short films, Bolofo has worked for such prestigious publications as *German Vogue*, *Italian Vogue*, *Italian Vanity Fair*, *Nippon*, *L'Uomo Vogue*, *Russian Vogue*, *Italian Marie Claire*, *British GQ*, *Sport and Style*, *Provider* and many others. His advertising clients include *Hermès*, *Banana Republic*, *Façonnable*, *Burberry*, *Levi's*, *Alberta Ferretti*, *Dom Pérignon* and *Keratese*. Bolofo is currently based in Paris. Book design by Koto Bolofo and Gerhard Steidl Text by Mœnould du Chatelle

I have waited for this set of books for a few years ever since I saw it was due to be published. It finally was published and arrived the other day. WOW is the best I can say. Koto Bolofo did some wonderful photographs. Even the roof top garden was pictured. There is a short commentary at the end of each product's photo journey which adds interest plus some facts too. He captures emotions and faces and small features in an almost intimate way or in some cases avant-garde. It certainly isn't a step by step photo journey but more an artistic one. The inside book cover pages are that lovely Hermes orange. The 11 books have a kind of rough binding which contrasts with the glossy pictures inside. They come in a slip cover also in Hermes orange color. The price of the book has gone up from the original estimated price on the Steidl website.

With great anticipation I waited for the release of this book which was delayed for over one year by the publisher. Once UK alerted me that it was available I purchased it the next day. Waiting for standard shipping to Taiwan where I live I was thrilled to know it was on its way. Due to the very expensive cost of this book and the fact that on previous book purchases from UK books were received damaged I alerted UK to take extra care in packing. I received a token computer generated answer that they would alert their shipping department. Bottom line was the parcel was received damaged, the shipping carton was double the size of the book which resulted in slipping and sliding during shipping, bubble was inadequate and used only on one side of the carton*** NOTE TO UK PACKERS A BOX HAS 4 SIDES ***, the shipping carton was smashed, the outside carrying case that is provided by the publisher to protect the contents was damaged, the Hermes orange box case that holds the 12 volumes was damaged and some of the books were damaged as well. You can well imagine what I said which is not printable here. I contacted UK and once again received a computer generated answer about how I could return it blah blah blah. A second contact to UK resulted in another computer generated e-mail with basically the same blah blah blah. But this time offering a 15% discount on the purchase price. I find this amusing when UK has lowered the selling

price from what I originally paid. So bottom line they are asking me to keep a damaged book for the price of a new book if I ordered it again. I am not in the habit of ordering items only to return them or to receive a discount for a problem I did not create to begin with. So UK I am returning the book including freight at your expense for a full refund, not purchasing it again nor any future products from UK, USA or any other parts of the world where ships from.

I ordered this over a year ago and still haven't received it. After having been told by that they had some in stock but ran out they told me they never had it in stock. After several emails back and forth they were never able to tell me when they would get "more". The kicker was when they sent me the publisher's info and told me I should contact the publisher. One would think it's their job to contact the publisher. Finally they just cancelled my order. If I were you I would order it from anyone other than .

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