

## Lost Babies

Lost Babies, 250 p., 11 x 18 cm,  
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"Lost Babies is an ongoing compilation of some of the most controversial political leaders – whether alive or dead, historically condemned or still in power. By contrasting their childhood portraits with statements they made as adults, the question emerges: when does innocence turn into tyranny?" (Anna Roura)

Many of Anna Roura's artworks are inspired by, or result in, books. She is fascinated by the power of language and the scope of publications to convey ideologies. Lost Babies is a pocket size companion that physically suggests a book one would like to have close at all times. The title is full of nostalgia and could be voiced by a mother addressing deep sorrow at the loss of her child. At closer sight, however, the white cover reveals a list of individuals known for their critical role in history or current news.

Lost Babies convincingly juxtaposes deeply misanthropic quotes with photographs of children – clearly the respective but unfittingly young instigators of the texts – thus emphasising the shock message of each statement, set on a black page. The second half of the book is empty, implying that we can continue by ourselves and that the lineup of despotic figures is far from complete. At the end of the 62 entries featuring only two women, a page index reveals the protagonists' names together with succinct biographical data. Alphabetically sorted according to first names, the list fittingly begins with Adolf Hitler.

How is it possible that a person who declaims something so clearly wrong can rise to power and stay in control for so long? Is abuse largely a male issue or is it that women have been prevented from reaching all-powerful positions? Are babies inherently good? Is it society that corrupts them? Anna Roura leaves it to the reader to find answers.

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