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One day in November by Jessica Backhaus

Posted on October 8th, 2010 by [PRC Intern](#) in [Book Reviews](#), [Meet Our Interns](#), [PRC Library](#)

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Jessica Backhaus, *One day in November* (Kehrer, 2009)

While glancing at the photos in the book, you may not find them particularly unusual. Just like the title, "One day in November," that suggests a simple concept, these photos are taken of things or scenes from our everyday lives, ranging from tree and shadow to window view from the inside of a room. They are easily accessible and easy to relate to. That said, there is more in the essence of the book.

The book was created in memory of a great friendship between photographer Jessica Backhaus (born 1970) and her mentor Gisele Freund (born 1908). Despite their huge age difference, they became good friends after their meeting in November 1992 while Backhaus was a photography student in Paris. The book was named after the occasion to demonstrate the great impact Freund had on Backhaus. However, during the elder artist's life Backhaus showed her only one of her own photographs because she didn't consider herself eligible back then. Now as an established photographer with her unique style, finally she could proudly present what she had photographed over the years to her mentor, despite Freund having died in 2000.

If Backhaus learned anything from Freund, it was to take photographs with heart and go beyond technical aspects. The following quotes from Backhaus reflect on the lessons she learned from Freund:

- "Despite the importance of knowing the technical aspects, the most important thing is to follow your heart in taking pictures."
- "Good photographs will stay with you, go beyond rules of composition and technical expertise, and convey or express a certain feeling."

It was Backhaus's feeling and heart that made those photographs featured in this book special. Probably, these might also be the messages that Freund wanted to convey through Backhaus.

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