

**Justin James Reed, 2013**  
by Anouk Kruithof

17-03-2014

A blank book, a violet flashlight, a little desire . . .

Since I've owned the book *2013* by Justin James Reed, I keep having this wavering curiosity about it—let's call it desire. Mainly because it seems like there are no photos in this so-called photobook. At first, *2013* looks like a couple of unbound empty pages, which is somehow calming on days when I've absorbed too many images.

But the ultraviolet flashlight which comes with the publication triggers activity: the light transforms those loose, blank pages into a photobook, as images printed in invisible ink start to appear. Once, they were hidden; the movement of the light brings them slowly to the surface, bit by bit. It's very sexy, very desirable. The photographs appear in the beam of the flashlight as if they have no frame, and isn't that what so many photographers desire—to somehow break the fixed frame? The loose pages shift as you browse through the book. Reed seems to float over the edges.

My flashlight and the movements of my hand reveal parts of the images, and the fact that they are hard to define makes them thrilling. Something you can't see or fully understand—that's what excites me. I shall always return to *2013*.



**Justin James Reed**  
*2013*  
Horse Think Press  
New York, 2012

**ANOUK KRUIHOF ♥ JUSTIN JAMES REED**  
*2013*

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**ANOUK KRUIHOF** is a New York-based Dutch artist. Her current exhibition with Paulien Oltheten is on view at Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, until June 9.