



REMY FAUCHEUX:
CLINIC

Remy Faucheux has commissioned eleven photographers and the creators of Useful Photography to take a closer look at the medical world in France. Some of the photographers took part in artist-in-residence programs in hospitals, others explored a specific illness by portraying the patients or the treatments devised to cure it. Jacqueline Hassink guides us through a large sanatorium designed by Alvar Aalto to heal the patients through the qualities of the building, furniture and interior design. Geoffrey de Boismenu takes photographs during an operation, with a soft light on the wound and the green linen around it, the patient unrecognizable against a dark background, creating an eerie effect somewhere between theater and fine art. Matthew Monteith portrays machines and staff and patients in the same distanced way, not without interest or feeling, but rather interested in the functionalities inherent in every hospital. His series is very ambitious in its scope, which cannot be said of all the photographers, but this is the danger of every commission. Overall I was thinking of Lars von Trier's *Ghosts* and the darker side of hospitals, i.e. the mistreatments, which are only hinted at in the last section of the book, where the Useful Photography team lifts images from manuals and medical journals. This large and well-produced book will be a basis for further explorations into the world of clinics and hospitals, and the editor has made a very well considered selection of photographers.

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