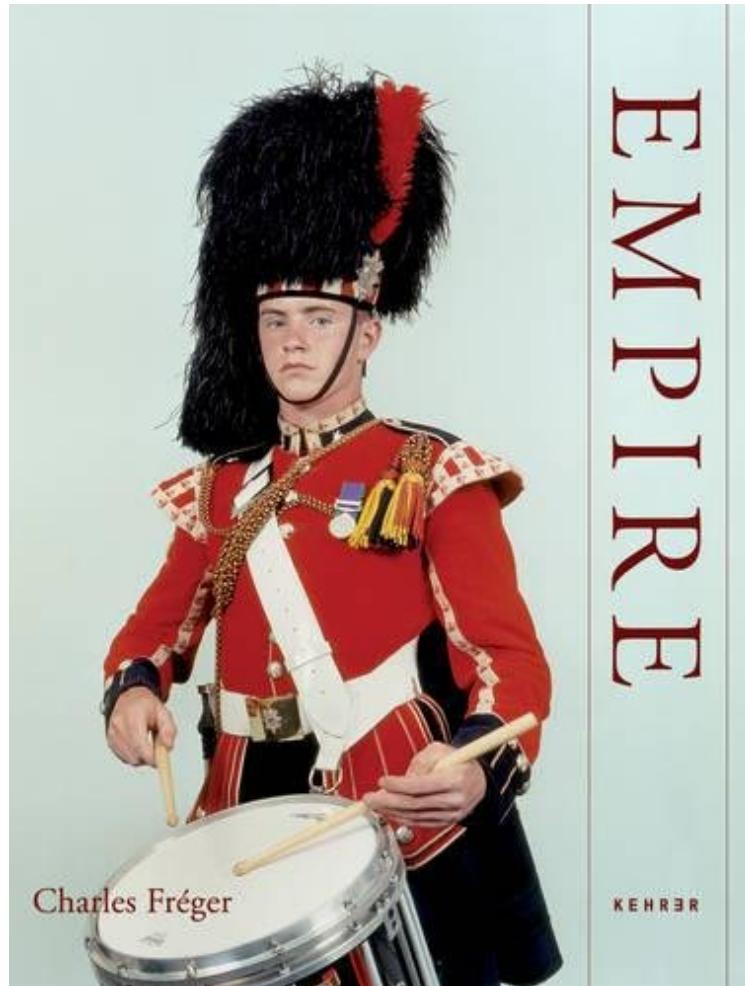


Empire

Prosper Keating

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#2745413 in Books 2010-05-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.40 x .70 x 8.60l, 2.60 #File Name: 3868280979164 pages | File size: 16.Mb

Prosper Keating : Empire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empire:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice uniform photographyBy Heraldry EmblemsAs my other reviews will attest, I have a great interest in military uniforms. This book by a French photographer is exclusively focused on Europe and presents impressive portrait photos of current ceremonial guards (the simple one-word title `Empire' strikes me as being a little misleading as several of the nations - such as Monaco, Norway and San Marino - have never had empires).A total of 16 national entities are covered, though oddly Scotland and Great Britain are shown and counted here as separate entities. All these nations together do show much of the best that Europe has to offer and multiple pictures are provided for each. It is a shame that some other European states that also have guards in colourful old-style uniforms are omitted, such as Czech Republic and Russia. The inclusion of the comparatively plain uniforms of the Austrian guards also looks somewhat out-of-place.The large format photographs are all in rich colour

taken in good clear light. All of them show subjects individually, in pairs or in groups of three, so there are no grand parade pictures. As a feast for the eyes the book works well, particularly for those who want to see the elaborate uniform details close-up. The book disappointingly contains a number of blank pages (having a picture on only one side of a double-page spread). Those who might want to know a little about what they are looking at may be dissatisfied as the pictures appear without captions beside them and only the briefest descriptive text is provided on two pages at the back of the book. While detailed descriptions are not to be expected in an art book like this, I felt that at least the nation and the unit name should have been indicated beside each picture (even if only discretely). For this reason, and also the blank pages point mentioned above, I have given this book four stars rather than five. It is worth noting additionally here that, according to the website of Charles Fréger, this book was published in Italy under a different title ('Vis Voluntatis') - though the cover design is different, the pictures inside are the same as in 'Empire'.

The photo series Empire is a long-term project (2004-2008), comprising portraits of a wide variety of elite troops across Europe, mostly Republican or Royal Guards, who stand out for both their historical and very colorful uniforms and for the draconic protocolary rule common in such units. The work of French photographer Charles Fréger is considered groundbreaking in the complex genre of contemporary portraiture. In extensive series he portrays individual members of social groups be it sports clubs or professional guilds who demonstrate their affiliation to the specific collective through external signs such as uniforms.

About the Author Born in 1975, Charles Fréger is a graduate of the Rouen Art School. He has devoted himself to the poetic and anthropological representation of social groups such as athletes, school children, the armed forces, etc. Fréger is also the founder of the international artistic community Piece of Cake (www.pocproject.com). He has published several photo books, e.g. "Rikishi" (2004). A former Vogue and Vogue Hommes International editor and contributor to various magazines and newspapers around the world, including The Times, The New York Times, Esquire and GQ, the writer and screenwriter Prosper Keating is also a former British Army paratrooper and author of several books and novels. Born in Ireland in 1961, he lives between Dublin and Paris. Born in 1975, Charles Fréger is a graduate of the Rouen Art School. He has devoted himself to the poetic and anthropological representation of social groups such as athletes, school children, the armed forces, etc. Fréger is also the founder of the international artistic community Piece of Cake (www.pocproject.com). He has published several photo books, e.g. "Rikishi" (2004).