



News Image © Thomas Flechtner, Lars Müller Publishers, 2013

snow-covered environments – from countryside to urban sites – and *Bloom* was the much more vibrantly coloured project that was concerned with the interplay between nature and civilisation.

In *News*, the faded print, washed-out images and yellowing of the year-old papers are literally brought to life with the growth of the young seedlings. The various patterns of clusters of vegetation take prominence over the once immediate headlines of the day's news. By way of contemplating time, Flechtner comments on the ephemeral nature of what classifies as front-page news day after day. The headlines are overtaken by nature in an almost apocalyptic sense of destruction and appropriation.

Markus Spillmann, fittingly the editor of Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, writes about the transitory nature of newspapers in the book's introduction: "For more than two hundred years, the newspaper has forged a link between the past and future. In its own archaic way, it always tells us too late of things that are already past, an anomaly in this age of the digital continuum, and it always runs the risk of misinterpreting what is happening right now. This quality is precisely what makes it so valuable, in the best sense of the word, because it necessarily frustrates any craving for the very latest news, able only to throw the weight of its stolid physical presence into the run against the volatility of the moment."

Due to the unique physical presence of *News*, as well as the price tag of £65, Flechtner is in a sense selling his collection to anyone who purchases the book, but of course only until it too succumbs to nature and time and begins to yellow and fade. *BJP*

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Yesterday's News

A new publication by Swiss artist Thomas Flechtner brings old news back to life, finds Lauren Heinz

Newsprint is a popular format for photographers who want to publish their work – cheap and relatively easy to distribute, they are a more economical and egalitarian version of book publishing. But Thomas Flechtner's new body of work – a

photographic project about newspapers, printed on newsprint and published as a book – takes this to another level.

News is presented in a large, grey cardboard box, containing seven tabloid-size, 16-page newspapers, each page a full-frame photograph of a cover from one of the 100 papers he meticulously collected from around the world. After having amassed his collection, Flechtner sprinkled seeds on top of

the newspapers, from those he had cultivated in his garden, watered the pages and put them in the sun. He then recorded the results with his camera and reprinted the images on their original stock.

Drawing upon ideas of nature, memory and the passing of time, *News* is much like the Swiss artist's previous two book publications, also published by Lars Müller Publishers. *Snow* was his photographic study of