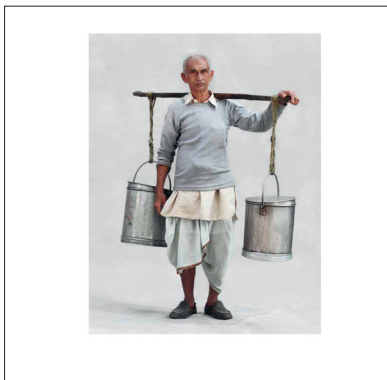


# PUBLICATION »BAHAK - THE BURDEN OF THINGS«



*Bahak* is the Bengali term for porters, individuals who live as day laborers at the lower end of society: exploitation and hard work for little pay, a daily and dangerous struggle on the streets of Kolkata (Calcutta), with little recognition for physical labor that can lead to exhaustion. No load seems too heavy or too large for these men to carry through the narrow and crowded streets of Kolkata with their muscle power. Whether on their heads, on a yoke over their shoulders, on two- and three-wheeled carts, or in a hand-pulled rickshaw—whether furniture, building materials, food, books, or coal: goods of all kinds are carried, dragged, hauled, and sometimes transported in challenging ways from one place to another. *Revolver Publishing, 2013*

## IN THE PRESS



*Bohnhof's photographs of Bahaks combine sociological insight with artistic sensibility, creating a systematic and original visual study of their work in Kolkata. Her portraits capture the essential character of her subjects, balancing realism with subtle humor, and highlight the symbolic weight of their labor. Through sixty-one carefully crafted images, she delivers a striking critique of capitalism while celebrating the humanity and diversity of her subjects. Her work is both socially meaningful and artistically compelling.*

HASARD, Serge Bouvet



*Anja Bohnhof did not take any snapshots of these people; instead she photographed the carriers who only get little appreciation from society in dignified individual portraits.*

RHEINISCHE POST, Peter Klucken



*A Moment of Dignity: They carry 14 chickens with their two hands, transport a family's household goods on their heads, or move 15 packed suitcases on two wheels. India's porters perform astonishing feats amid the chaos of daily traffic. Without them, the economic life of a city like Kolkata—which is so bustling that cars alone cannot handle its logistics—would come to a standstill. Despite their impressive achievements, these men are poorly paid and occupy only the lowest rung in the social hierarchy. Anja Bohnhof photographs them for her project BAHAK – The Burden of Things.*

KÖLNISCHE RUNDSCHAU, Thomas Linden

BAHAK - THE BURDEN OF THINGS

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