

GLORIOUS TIMES & DAZZLING WRITING

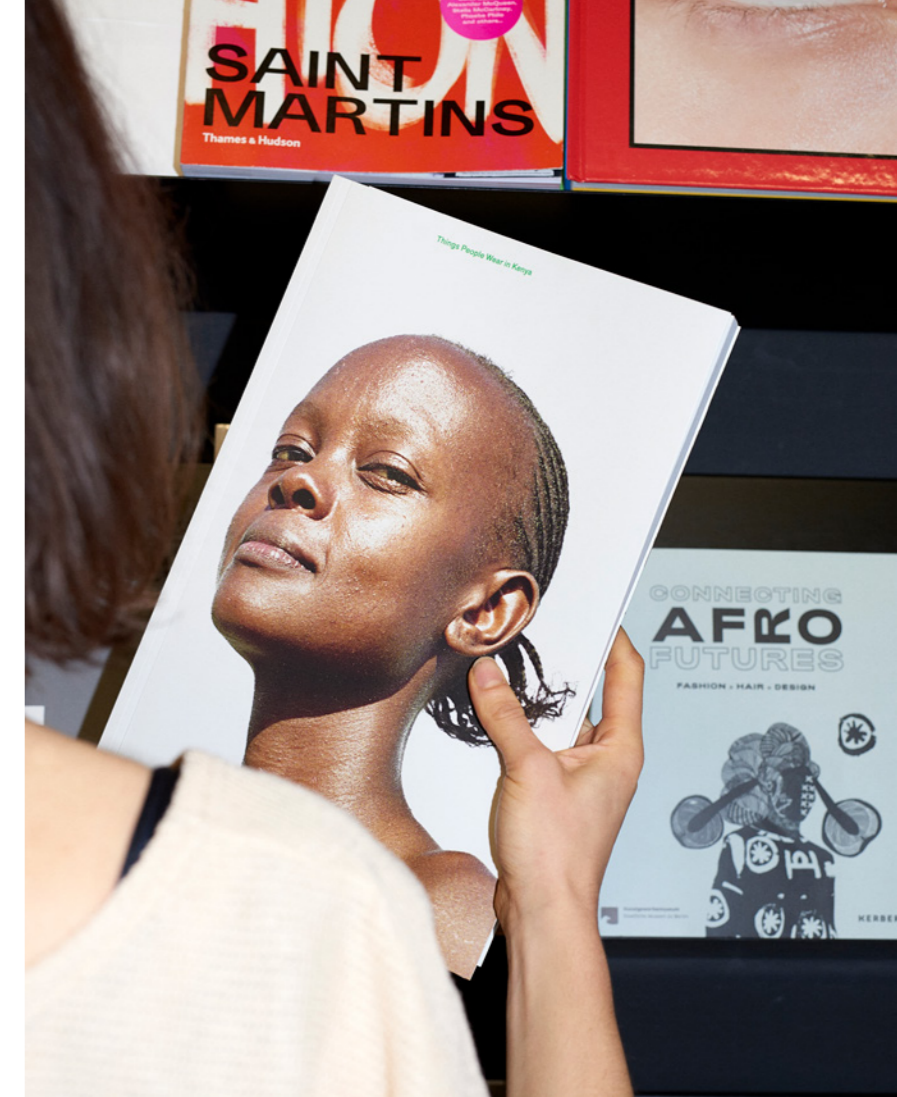
DO YOU READ ME?! · BERLIN · GERMANY

Challenging the status quo: this bookstore puts the focus on international magazines and independent publishers



RIGHT Magazines of all kinds and formats form the focus of this popular Berlin bookstore.

OPPOSITE Mark Kiessling (pictured) and Jessica Reitz founded do you read me?! amid the print media crisis, yet it remains a success to this day.



We don't really differentiate between books, magazines, glossies, or zines—we only care about whether it works for do you read me?!" says Mark Kiessling, who runs the popular store selling magazines and books in Berlin's Auguststraße, together with Jessica Reitz. Amid galleries, bars, and stylish cafés, the store, which shares its striking name with this book, has gained renown well beyond the German capital as a treasure trove of outstanding contemporary printed products. Its self-appointed mission is to generate publicity for small, independent publishing houses and magazines from all over the world.

The anthracite-colored shelves display the latest issue of *032c* alongside the African collaborative magazine *NICE* and environmental magazine *Atmos*. The selection of books ranges from

We Are the Weather by Jonathan Safran Foer to *Architektur für die Katz—Schweizer Katzenleitern* from publisher Christoph Merian Verlag. "They're all firm favorites," says Kiessling.

When the visionary book dealer founded his first graphic design studio, Greige, in Berlin in 2001, he was enraptured by the city and its cultural scene. Nonetheless, he felt that something was missing from Berlin, and indeed the rest of Germany. "Of course, there were some great bookstores for designers, architects, and artists, like Pro qm in Berlin, Walther König in Cologne, and Werner in Munich, but interesting magazines, which I often bought abroad, were difficult to →