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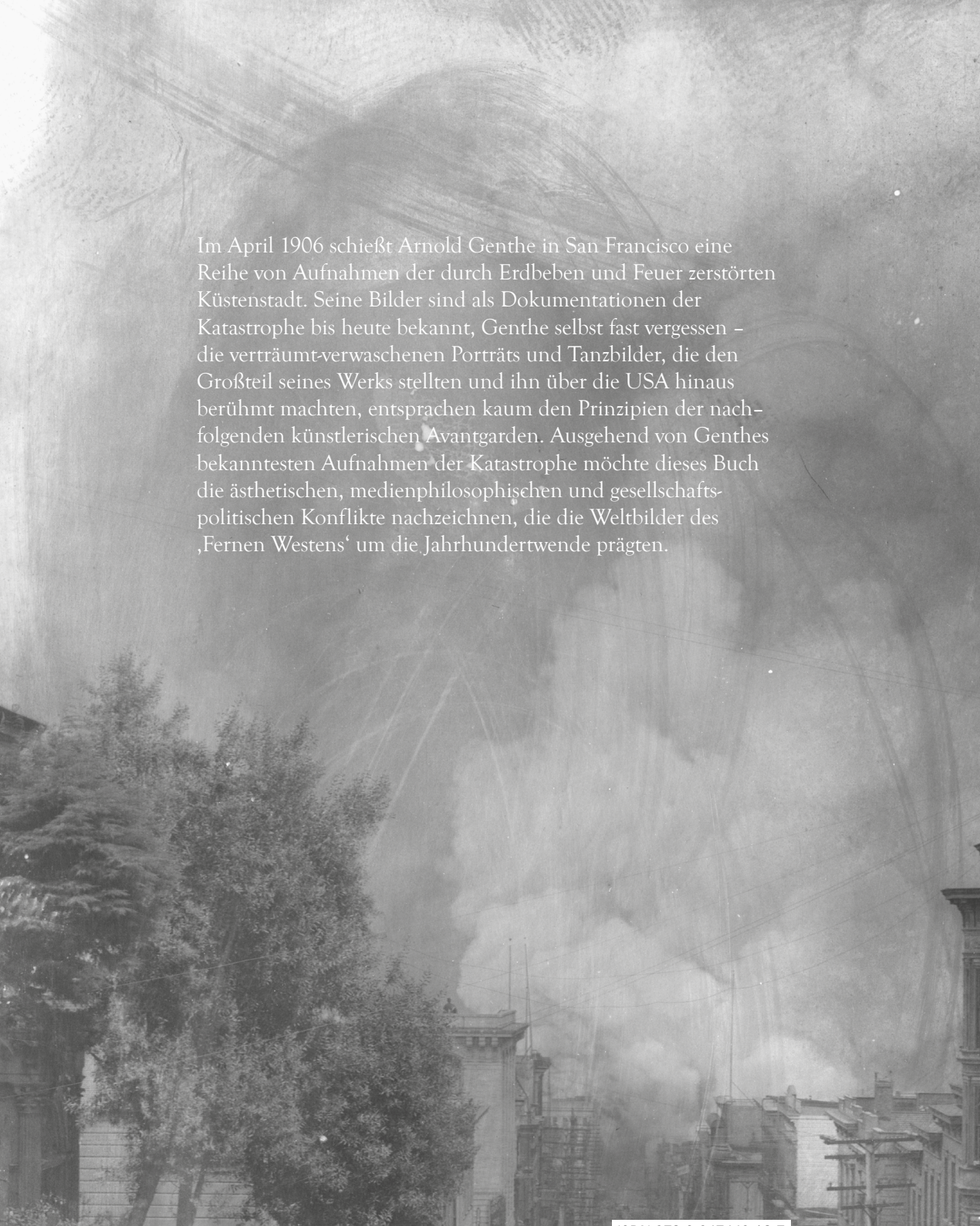
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Im April 1906 schießt Arnold Genthe in San Francisco eine Reihe von Aufnahmen der durch Erdbeben und Feuer zerstörten Küstenstadt. Seine Bilder sind als Dokumentationen der Katastrophe bis heute bekannt, Genthe selbst fast vergessen – die verträumt-verwaschenen Porträts und Tanzbilder, die den Großteil seines Werks stellten und ihn über die USA hinaus berühmt machten, entsprachen kaum den Prinzipien der nachfolgenden künstlerischen Avantgarden. Ausgehend von Genthes bekanntesten Aufnahmen der Katastrophe möchte dieses Buch die ästhetischen, medienphilosophischen und gesellschaftspolitischen Konflikte nachzeichnen, die die Weltbilder des ‚Fernen Westens‘ um die Jahrhundertwende prägten.

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