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# BA. KU.: Kult Skating/Dark Rituals



## Synopsis

Within the city of Vancouver, and amongst the deep wilderness of B.C. dwells the Barrier Kult. They're an assembly of incognito professional skateboarders that ritualize their skill on concrete barriers. The team was created ten years ago by Deer Man of Dark Woods and Depth Leviathan Dweller, who decided to adorn a mask of anonymity after growing tired of the repetition of the professional skate world. One would argue that the Barrier Kult's entire way of skating is repetitive, but the team takes this as a challenge to land big tricks... on stone cold concrete. BA. KU.Â resembles a religious cult and is likewise intricate and timeless. The skaters' ages range from early twenties, to mid-forties, with members spread around the world and meet up in Vancouver, (or wherever there is a proper barrier) when it comes time to collect footage for a video/film. Though alchemy and other ritual practices interest the Barrier Kult, their true roots lie in music and nature. The team is promoted by and has worked with countless bands in the black metal/noise community and feels that the genre has been able to loan the group its face and image. By connecting with these heavy musical influences,Â BA. KU.Â has been able to grow a loyal fan base that is not concerned with who may be behind the balaclava mask. While watching the team perform, the vast nature of B.C. creates the atmosphere, and war metal amplifies the experience. Most of skateboarding culture has been linked to punk, rap, metal and other similar genres, so the rookie members ofÂ BA. KU.Â are all proud to sport the musical inspirations of the organization.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Tafuro produced a series of black and white images thatÂ provide a rare inside look at the gang."

-Dazed

Anthony Tafuro, originally from Long Island, NY, currently resides in Queens, NY. Tafuro grew up on the road touring with a band where he met skateboarders everywhere he went. Most of the crowd consisted of skate kids, which eventually led to an interest in photographing this mythic culture. After hanging with wrestlers and roller derby girls working with BA.KU. was Tafuro's ultimate goal. Trips to Vancouver allowed Tafuro access to the team, as well as a mutual understanding of how the images should appear. To also share such a similar interest in music was refreshing...

One of my favorite photo collections that I own. I've followed the Vancouver based; Barrier Kult for years, and worship their RITUAL BARRIER KNIFING. This book covers the aesthetic, skating, and imagery; in both lomographic, and professional photography. Easily 5/5.

Some of the photos were pretty low quality, but that's part of the draw, really.

Blown away by this intimate look into the world of the Barrier Kult. From sick landscapes to striking portraits (the "goth girl" mentioned by another reviewer is actually their alchemist), BA.KU. offers an accurate documentary of the team that also embraces the fantasy that surrounds them.

Interesting insight into the cult skateboarding world. These pictures really capture the dark tones of the group.

The photo quality is really bad. Maybe some more time and effort should have been put in to the photos being printed.

The photography captures the essence of why these skaters are so intrigued with barriers and the danger/thrill that goes along with skating them!!! Well done Mr. Tafuro. Looking forward to seeing your unique perspective of other genres.

Beautifully made!!!!!!!!!!!! love the creativity of this artist. Every photo is extremetly interesting and very unique. I love tis and im going to buy a couple copys more to my friends for christmas gifts.

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