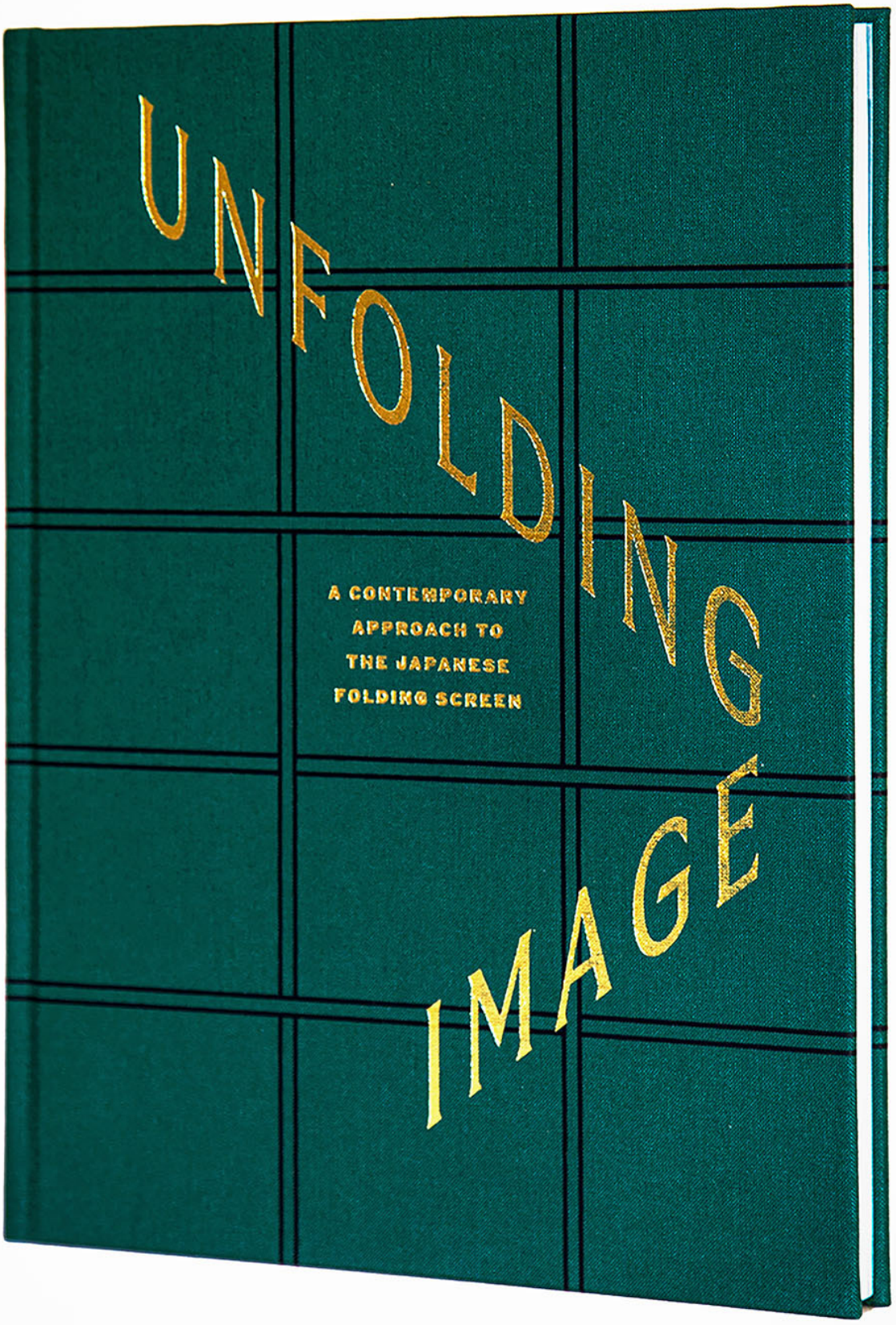
# UNFOLDING IMAGE




- A CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO THE JAPANESE FOLDING SCREEN

KARL PATRIC NÄSMAN

STUBBORN BOOKS

# UNFOLDING IMAGE

## - A Contemporary Approach to the Japanese Folding Screen

*Unfolding Image – A Contemporary Approach to the Japanese Folding Screen* is a richly illustrated book that presents a unique exchange between the Japanese folding screen maker Koto Kataoka and five contemporary artists based in Sweden. The book brings together and deepens every aspect of the project - from the initial workshop and exhibitions at *Konstnärshuset* and the *Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities (Östasiatiska Museet)* in Sweden in 2021, to the final exhibition at the Embassy of Sweden in Tokyo in 2022.



Unfolding Image, The Embassy of Sweden in Tokyo, 2021

Through a combination of text and photo documentation, the book captures the cross-cultural collaboration and explores how Ylva Carlgren, Inez Jönsson, Martin Kozlowski, Juri Markkula, and Karl Patric Näsman interpret and transform the folding screen within their contemporary artistic practices. While highlighting each artist's individual approach, the reader in this book is invited into the workshops, materials, and a detailed documentation of the final ten works, all explored in relation to the form, material, and cultural tradition of the Japanese folding screen.

Ylva Carlgren, Inez Jönsson, and Karl Patric Näsman share a deep connection to craftsmanship, reflected in their choice of materials and time-intensive, meticulous processes. In a different but complementary direction, Markkula and Kozlowski incorporate digital aesthetics and technologies into their work. Markkula's pieces are shaped by industrial manufacturing techniques and machine-based processes, while Kozlowski uses a layered painting method influenced by digital editing aesthetics.

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The book also features in-depth descriptions of the materials and and the places of origin that were essential to the project, including Niigata, known for its dense cedar forests and vibrant woodworking industry, and Echizen in Fukui Prefecture, renowned for its handmade washi paper. In September 2024, Karl Patric Näsman returned to Japan to conduct further research and document these significant locations together with Kataoka, resulting in valuable new encounters and documentation that further enrich the book's context.

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**Koto Kataoka** (b. 1988, Tokyo) is a third-generation byōbu maker and CEO of Kataoka Byoubu, founded in 1946 in Sumida, Tokyo. He studied economics and management at Dokkyo University before dedicating himself to the family craft, training for two years at Marukawa Yuhei Shoten. His work explores the intersection of traditional Japanese folding screen techniques and contemporary expression. Kataoka has exhibited internationally, including in Sweden, Italy, Great Britain, and Thailand, and continues to collaborate with artists to expand the cultural reach of the craft of byōbu.

byoubu.co.jp

**Inez Jönsson** b. 1989) lives and works in Stockholm.
She graduated from the Royal Institute of Art in 2017 and has exhibited at institutions such as Jönköpings Läns Museum, Prince Eugen's Waldemarsudde, Gallery Arnstedt, and Gallery Belenius. Her work is represented in the collections of Norrköpings Art Museum and the Ståhl Collection. In 2023, she received the Åke Andrén Foundation's scholarship and was awarded the Bærtling Scholarship in 2021. Jönsson's practice explores the space between painting and object, with a strong material presence embedded in textile and woodcraft traditions.

inezjonsson.se

**Ylva Carlgren** (b. 1984) lives and works in Stockholm.
She holds an MFA (2012) and BFA (2010) from Valand Academy of Fine Arts in Gothenburg, with additional studies at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Moscow. Carlgren has exhibited internationally, with solo shows in Hamburg, Tokyo, Stockholm, and most recently at Space of Time Gallery in Beijing, and group exhibitions including the Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art in Japan. Carlgren is known for her meticulously layered watercolor paintings that explore abstraction, light, and the subtle interplay between presence and absence.

ylvacarlgren.com

**Martin Kozlowski** (b. 1984) is a painter based in Stockholm.
He studied at Goldsmiths, University of London, and graduated from Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main in 2017. Kozlowski has exhibited internationally in cities including London, Tokyo, Berlin, and Stockholm. In 2018, he received the Vera and Göran Agnekil Scholarship from the Royal Academy of Arts in Stockholm. His practice explores the intersection of gesture and structure, drawing inspiration from Japanese calligraphy to create process-driven compositions that balance spontaneity with control. His paintings balance spontaneity with control, layering expressive spray-like gradients with precise, deliberate lines.

martinkozlowski.se/

**Juri Markkula** (b. 1970, Turku, Finland) is a Swedish artist based in Gotland. He graduated from the Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm in 2002. Markkula has exhibited widely in Sweden, Europe, and Asia, with recent solo exhibitions at Hedenius in Stockholm, Ora Ora in Hong Kong, and Galleri Thomassen in Gothenburg. His work is represented in public collections such as Skissernas Museum, Gotland Art Museum, and Public Art Agency Sweden. Markkula's practice merges digital and analog techniques, combining 3D printing and surface-based processes to explore perception, materiality, and the interplay between tradition and innovation.

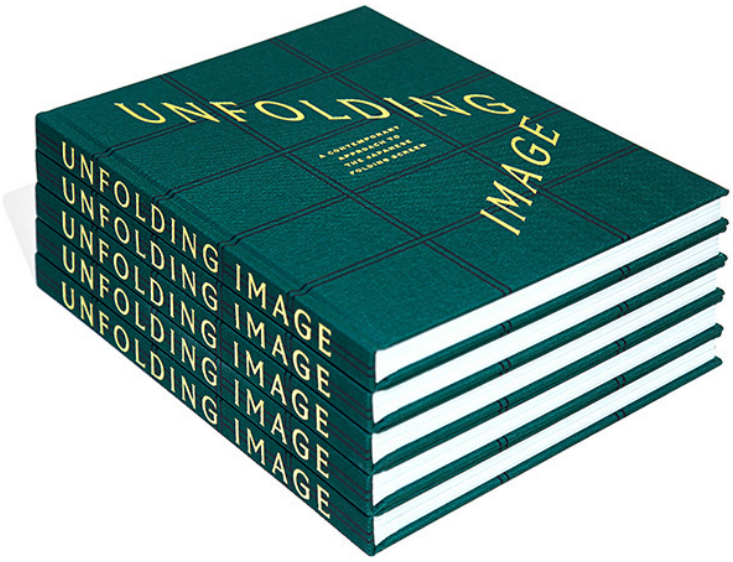
jurimarkkula.com

**Karl Patric Näsman** (b. 1986, Örebro, Sweden) is an artist based in Stockholm. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Fine Arts from Konstfack - University of Arts, Crafts and Design. His work has been exhibited in Stockholm and internationally in Shanghai, Tokyo, and Utrecht. In 2016, he received the Fredrik Roos Grant, awarded by a jury from the Moderna Museet. Näsman initiated the Unfolding Image project during a residency in Tokyo in 2020, supported by the Japanstiftelsen. His practice merges conceptual thinking with material experimentation, drawing inspiration from architecture, craft, and art history to explore the boundaries of painting and form.

karlpatric.com

**Markel Ahlenius** (b. 1981, Sundsvall) is a graphic designer, art director, and publisher based in Stockholm, with over 15 years of experience in visual design and the creative field. He studied at Beckmans College of Design and Berghs School of Communication, and has developed campaigns and visual concepts for clients such as Samsung, Systembolaget, and Telia. Ahlenius has served as Senior Art Director at BLCK / ARC and is the co-founder of Stubborn Books – an initiative in collaboration with artist Erik Berglin, dedicated to experimental publishing. He is also responsible for the design of *Unfolding Image - A Contemporary Approach to the Japanese Folding Screen*.

markelahlenius.com




*UNFOLDING IMAGE*
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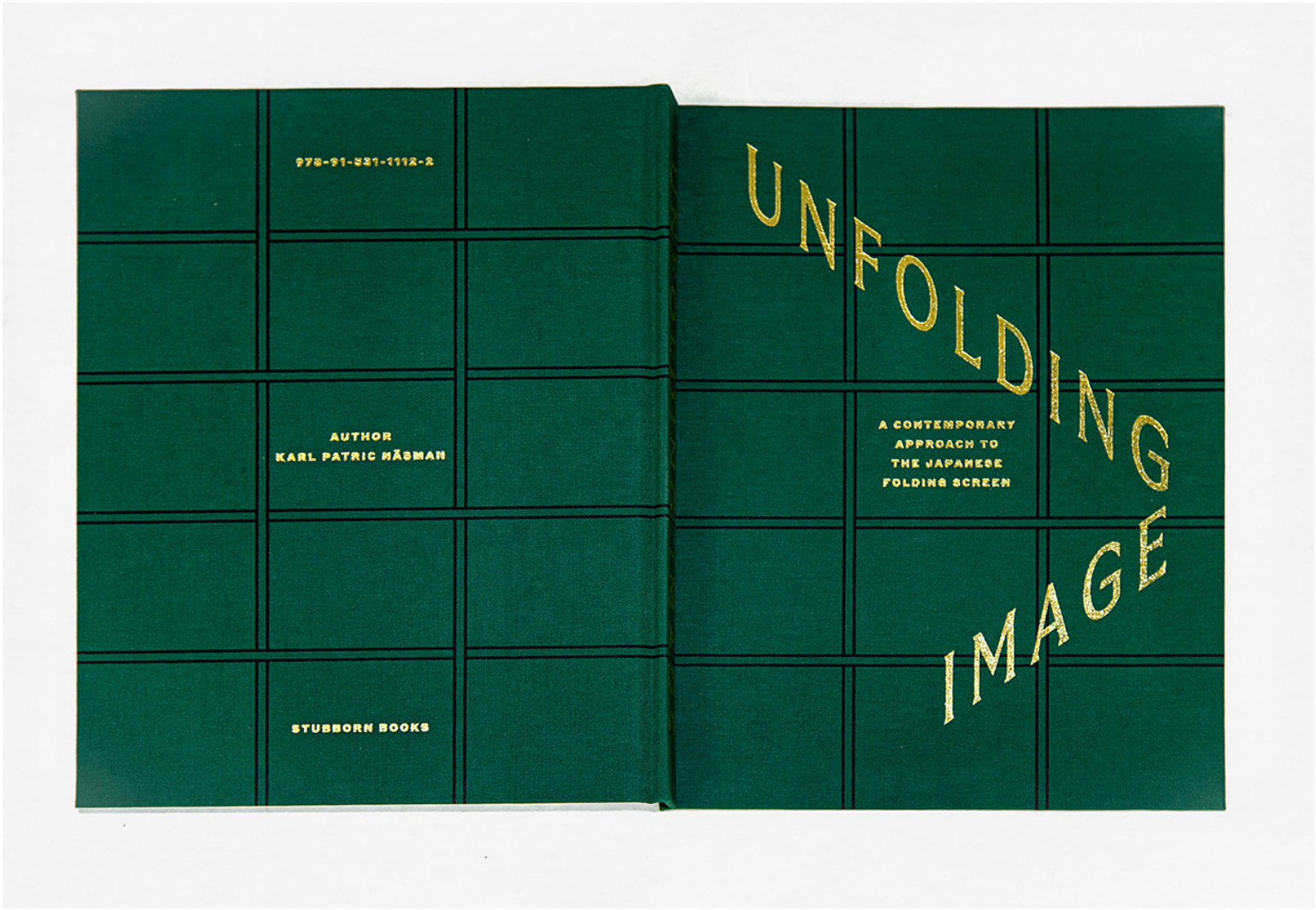


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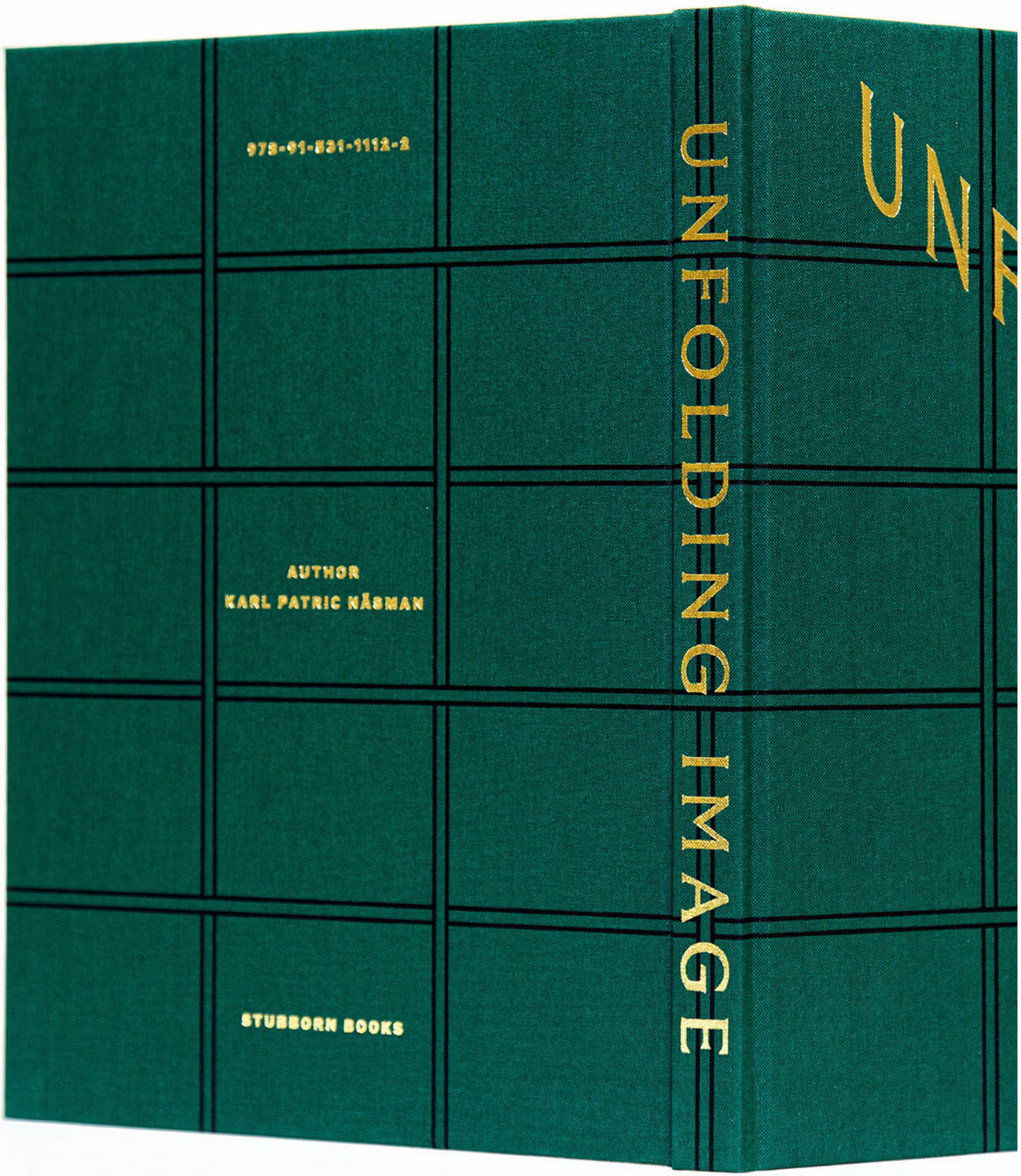
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