

q world: ELSKA DOES MEXICO CITY

July marked the release of the fifty-third book in the Elska series, a project dedicated to exploring the world and its men through a gay lens. This latest edition focuses on Mexico City, one of the most vibrant, exciting and queer places on Earth. Inside, readers can get to know a cross-section of local gay men through a blend of intimate photography and personal storytelling.

"Over the past year, more of our readers have requested us to make an issue in Mexico City than anywhere else, so we had to give the people what they wanted" says Elska editor, writer and chief photographer Liam Campbell. "This marks our fifth time featuring a Latin American location, and yet again, the results have exceeded all expectations. The mixture of vibrant queer life and gorgeous men makes this part of the world the ideal stomping ground for Elska."

"The openness of people here seemed to lead to a certain audaciousness as well. For only the second time in our fifty-three issue history, every participant in Elska Mexico City opted to bare all for their photoshoots. What's more, there wasn't the least bit of nervousness or even any coyness, only freeness and pride. I'm almost tempted to make all future Elskas in South America – t's just so refreshing to immerse oneself in a community that is so positive and liberated!"

The text in Elska Mexico City was formed from extensive diaries taken during the trip to the city, centred around details of the time spent with around a dozen local men met there, including conversations and activities shared. These men were also invited to take part in a photoshoot, encompassing a combination of scenes in the streets dressed in their own style and at home undressed. The result is a fully immersive and unabashedly queer reading experience.

Elska Mexico City is available in a collectible print book or in a downloadable e-book. In addition, the companion e-zine Elska Ekstra Mexico City is available, containing three more men and their stories, plus many hundreds of outtake images of each CDMX subject. The publications are available for order online as well as from a select group of shops around the world. Ordering information and details of the subscription service can be found on the Elska website: www.elskamagazine.com







"There's
he pointed
that read, 'On
corner, the str
veston'.

I asked what he thought about life in
Poland and endeavoured to do so in
Polish, which is bad but not as bad as
my Italian. "Kiedy mieszkales w Polsce,
lubiles?" ["When you lived in Poland, did
you like it?"]

"What?" he jerked, totally puzzled.... Then
it sort of clicked. "Dzień dobry, dziękuję...
[Hello, thank you...]. These are the only
words I know.... Oh, and from the trans-
Następny przystanek..." [Next stop...]

Sebastián then told me a story about a
Mexican colleague who was also on his
university exchange. He'd gotten into an
argument with a local who shouted in
English, "Immigrant, go!" The police soon
arrived, but instead of assisting his col-
league, they joined in on the badgering,
asking to see his papers and speaking
only in Polish despite his pleas that he
didn't understand them. Eventually, when
they realised that he was a Mexican, they
left him alone. Afterwards, a local Pole
approached to ask if they were alright and
explained that they probably thought he
was Muslim, perhaps a Pakistani, unsure
how to interpret his dark skin. Sebastián
noted that they never questioned him, un-
able to clock that he was foreign as well,
or not an 'undesirable' type of foreigner.

The story did not surprise me, sadly, but
I nevertheless felt the urge to defend my
Polish side. I explained away Polish rac-
ism, claiming that it's the result of their

"I used to
and w
rank of
city."

They... his head with
They... it's because they told m
having immigrants and that it's
have immigrants at all in a poor

"But Poland is not a poor country!"

Sebastián nodded firmly. "I told the
same thing. I said, 'Look at your city
are rich!'" He shook his head. "They
know what poor is!"

Looking around Colonia Napoles, I won-
dered which city was richer: Warsaw or
Mexico.

When we arrived at Sebastián's place,
he delayed me on the stairwell. He went
inside, returned with an armful of clothes
and grumbled, "The cleaner is still here."
He took me up to his building's roof and
suggested we do some photos there until
the cleaner was finished. We did some
shots in underwear and a dressing gown
until his phone beeped, signalling that we
could head inside.

Our first indoor scene was in the bath-
room. I told him to keep his dressing
gown on after the scene.
I asked him
protested,
because
denver
offer p
fully nak