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Stephen Shore: Uncommon Places: The Complete Works



Synopsis

Originally published in 1982, Stephen Shore's legendary "Uncommon Places" has influenced more than a generation of photographers. Shore was among the first artists to take color beyond the domain of advertising and fashion photography, and his large-format color work on the American vernacular landscape inaugurated a vital photographic tradition. "Uncommon Places: The Complete Works," published by Aperture in 2005, presented a definitive collection of the landmark series, and in the span of a decade has become a contemporary classic. Now, for this lushly produced reissue, the artist has added nearly 20 rediscovered images and a statement explaining what it means to expand a classic series. Like Robert Frank and Walker Evans before him, Shore discovered a hitherto unarticulated vision of America via highway and camera. Approaching his subjects with cool objectivity, Shore retains precise systems of gestures in composition and light through which a hotel bedroom or a building on a side street assumes both an archetypal aura and an ambiguously personal importance. An essay by critic and curator Stephan Schmidt-Wulffen and a conversation with Shore by writer Lynne Tillman examine his methodology and elucidate his roots in Pop and Conceptual art. The texts are illustrated with reproductions from Shore's earlier series "American Surfaces" and "Amarillo: Tall in Texas." At age 14 Stephen Shore (born 1947) had his work purchased by Edward Steichen for The Museum of Modern Art, New York. At 17 Shore was a regular at Andy Warhol's Factory, producing an important photographic document of the scene, and in 1971 at the age of 23 he became the first living photographer since Alfred Stieglitz 40 years earlier to have a one-man show at the Met. He has had numerous one-man shows, among others at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; George Eastman House, Rochester; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and The Art Institute of Chicago. Since 1982 he has been Director of the Photography Program at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

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Customer Reviews

On any list of must-own photo books, Stephen Shore's 1982 classic, *Uncommon Places*, deserves pride of place. Shore, now 67, helped spearhead the use of color (once the exclusive province of advertising and fashion) in fine-art photography while documenting the American landscape, transforming the banal (diners, back alleys, tacky-tacky suburbs) into extraordinary tableau. Now the book is being reissued with 20 previously unseen images, as *Uncommon Places: The Complete Works*, giving you a reason to search for a collectible first edition on . (The Editors Details)

At age fourteen, Stephen Shore had his work purchased by Edward Steichen for the Museum of Modern Art, New York. At seventeen, Shore was a regular at Andy Warhol's Factory, producing an important photographic document of the scene, and in 1971, at the age of twenty-three, he became the first living photographer since Alfred Stieglitz forty years earlier to have a solo show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He has had numerous one-man shows, including those at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; George Eastman House, Rochester; Kunsthalle Düsseldorf; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Jeu de Paume, Paris; and Art Institute of Chicago. He has received two NEA grants and a Guggenheim Foundation grant. Since 1982 he has been director of the photography program at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, where he is the Susan Weber Professor in the Arts. Stephan Schmidt-Wulffen was born in 1951 in Witten/Germany. He works as an art theoretician and director of the art academy Akademie der bildenden Künste in Vienna/Austria. Lynne Tillman is a novelist, short story writer, and critic. Her fiction includes the novels *Haunted Houses*, *Motion Sickness*, *Cast in Doubt*, and *No Lease on Life*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in fiction. Tillman's art and literary criticism has been published in *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *Aperture*, *Nest*, the *Village Voice*, *The Guardian*, *Bomb*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. She has written stories for the artists' books and catalogues of a variety of contemporary artists, including Kiki Smith, Juan Munoz, Jessica Stockholder, Barbara Kruger, Roni Horn, and Vik Muniz. Her most recent story collection, *This Is Not It*, appeared in 2002. Tillman's new novel, *American Genius, A Comedy*, will be published in October by Soft Skull Press.

Phenomenal book, cannot recommend it enough. The palette, the compositions, the atmosphere, the clean execution, it's as close to perfect for me as it gets. I wish I could rate it more than 5 stars. Mr. Shore, you have a big fan in me, thank you for your stunning work.

If you're interested in the U.S. landscape that exists outside iconic places like New York or San Francisco, put this book on your list. Shore is a brilliant chronicler of the mundane and (sometimes) beautiful, and a genius with line and composition. Highly recommended.

Just a time capsule! The photography is awesome and each picture speaks by itself.

I shamefacedly admit that I buy a lot of photography books that do little more after a flip-through than sit on my shelves collecting dust. Along with Dorothea Tanning, Hendrik Kerstends, Jeff Brouws, and of course Henri Cartier-Bresson, Stephen Shore is one of very few that I continue to pick up and pore over, and Uncommon Places is replete with marvelous, data-rich photographs of mid/late 20th century America that will stick in your head. Highly recommended.

One of the best photography books I've ever seen. Just beautiful!

One of my favorite photo books I own, Shores work is always inspiring and this book was put together beautifully

Amazing book

Great!

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