

Walker Evans American Photographs

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walker evans american photographs is widely deemed the most important photobook ever published originally conceived to be a catalogue to accompany his one man show at the museum of modern art in 1938 the first solo show moma had given to a photographer it quickly became a document so definitive of its era that curator john szarkowski wrote that it was difficult to know now whether walker evans recorded the america of his youth or invented it the book opens with images that cite photography immediately establishing a tension between medium and message although it is certainly for the message that evans has become famous american photographs points over and over again to the unhappy lot of the poor and the dispossessed in 1930s america lincoln kirstein's accompanying essay famous in its own right declares what poet has said as much only newspapers the writers of popular music the technicians of advertising and radio have in their blind energy accidentally fortuitously evoked for future historians such a powerful monument to our moment and evans work has in addition intention logic continuity climax sense and perfection american photographs continues to go out of print for long stretches of time and the first edition of errata's 2009 spread by spread reprint followed suit this revised edition of that volume presents the original 1938 edition with its 87 legendary black and white photographs reproduced in full page rather than quarter page spreads the classic kirstein

essay and a contemporary essay by evans scholar john t hill born in st louis missouri walker evans 1903 1975 took up photography in 1928 his book collaboration with james agee let us now praise famous men 1941 which portrayed the lives of three white tenant families in southern alabama during the depression has become one of that era s most defining documents evans joined the staff of time magazine in 1945 and shortly after moved to fortune where he stayed until 1965 that year he became a professor of photography at the yale university school of art evans died at his home in old lyme connecticut in 1975 the errata editions books on books series is an ongoing publishing project dedicated to making rare and out of print photography books accessible to students and photobook enthusiasts these are not reprints or facsimiles but complete studies of the original books each volume in the series presents the entire content page for page of an original master bookwork which up until now has been too rare or expensive for most to experience through a mix of classic and contemporary titles this series spans the breadth of photographic practice as it has appeared on the printed page and allows further study of the creation and meanings of these great works of art each volume in the series contains illustrations of every page in the original photobook a new essay by an established writer on photography production notes about the creation of the original edition and biographical and bibliographical information about each artist

more than any other artist walker evans invented the images of an essential america that we have long accepted as fact american photographs first published by the museum of modern art in 1938 is the purest and most complete expression of his cool unblinking vision the eighty seven photographs reproduced on its pages are as relevant and essential as ever with lincoln Kirstein s essay as their eloquent foil american photographs has been a key touch stone for photographers and those who seek to understand the lyric potential of the medium but it has often been out of print this seventy fifth anniversary edition with sumptuous duotone plates complementing the elegant restraint of the original typography and design makes evans s landmark book available again for the first time digital technologies aid in emulating the precise cropping and finely tuned balance of the 1938 reproductions capturing as never before the look and feel of the first edition cover jacket

an album of eighty seven of evans pictures of houses factories people and city streets offers an unadorned look at american society between 1929 and 1937

considers five documentary sequences or narratives the antebellum portraits of mathew brady and others the civil war albums of alexander gardner george barnard and a j russell the western survey and landscape photographs of timothy o sullivan a j russell and carleton watkins and social photographs and texts by alfred stieglitz and lewis hine as well as documentaries inspired by the depression esp walker evans s american photographs

walker evans was one of america s greatest photographers

mia fineman is chester dale fellow in the department of photographs the metropolitan museum of art

a comprehensive biography of the hugely influential photographer written with unrestricted access to his diaries letters work logs and contact sheets the author an acclaimed biographer discusses evans s style as emblematic of a shift in the aesthetic values of 20th century american art evans is shown to be not the social propagandist he is often assumed to be from his famous depression era photographs but rather the advocate of an uncompromising photographic realism some of his photographs are included but the volume would be best enjoyed accompanied by a good collection of evans s work annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

a major figure in american photography walker evans stands among alfred stieglitz edward steichen and paul strand as an artist of the first rank evans documented the look and feel of much of his native country in a notably distinct way throughout the majority of the twentieth century this definitive retrospective of evans s career which received france s prix de nadar and england s krasna kraus award when first published in hardcover is now available for the first time as a reduced format paperback prepared by john t hill in cooperation with gilles mora walker evans the hungry eye begins with the artist s early abstractions and his project on the brooklyn bridge done in collaboration with american poet hart crane and continues through evans s photographic studies of new england and new york victorian buildings his travels to tahiti and cuba his work in florida and new orleans and his three year involvement with the farm security administration a highlight of this volume is the material from evans s highly influential show american photographs at the museum of modern art in new york re created in exactly the sequence that evans established for the original exhibition no broader or more comprehensive view of this important innovative and distinguished photographer exists to date with all of the images superbly reproduced from negatives prepared by thomas palmer this volume will long stand as a tribute to an american original book jacket

text by lloyd fonvielle

published to accompany exhibition held at the high museum of art georgia 24 3 14 6 1998 and travelling

this catalog features walker evans in light of the larger theme of vernacular style a style of photography and paintings are included here too that is descriptive in its intent what galassi calls plainspoken in his preface the catalog it s slightly oversize at 10x11 5 includes over 300 images in this style from evans and his contemporaries including edward weston paul strand and berenice abbott to works from the 1980s and 1990s by david goldblatt lee friedlander and thomas struth among others moma s curator of photography peter galassi provides a lengthy introduction on evans his influences and the artistic style he created there is no index c book news inc

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