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Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs



ANSEL ADAMS 400 PHOTOGRAPHS



Synopsis

ANSEL ADAMS: 400 PHOTOGRAPHS presents the full spectrum of Adams' work in a single volume for the first time, offering the largest available compilation from his legendary photographic career. Beautifully produced and presented in an attractive landscape trim, ANSEL ADAMS: 400 PHOTOGRAPHS will appeal to a general gift-book audience as well as Adams' legions of dedicated fans and students. The photographs are arranged chronologically into five major periods, from his first photographs made in Yosemite and the High Sierra in 1916 to his work in the National Parks in the 1940s up to his last important photographs from the 1960s. An introduction and brief essays on selected images provide information about Adams' life, document the evolution of his technique, and give voice to his artistic vision. Few artists of any era can claim to have produced four hundred images of lasting beauty and significance. It is a testament to Adams' vision and lifetime of hard work that a book of this scale can be compiled. ANSEL ADAMS: 400 PHOTOGRAPHS is a must-have for anyone who appreciates photography and the allure of the natural world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you want 400 finely reproduced photographs of the oeuvre of one of the greatest black and white photographers, Ansel Adams, then you must get this book. The photographs are reproduced with the fine attention to detail, shadow and contrast that Adams would have demanded. It was amazing to see his first photographs of Yosemite when he was 14 years old. Turning each page, one stumbles across photographs one has forgotten or never seen, or those one can never forget. Even

though the book could have been just a little bit bigger, it is a nice size to fit on your lap without breaking your arms. This is a must-get book for any Adams' enthusiast.

the size. This book is about the size of 8x11, so it's not a large coffee table book size. What it lacks in area size, it makes it up in the number of great photos, all 400 of them. I also own the Yosemite and the Range of Light, one of Ansel Adams most highly acclaimed publication printed back in the 70's. I compared the two books. The 400 uses a whiter paper stock. Many of the photos in the 400 look different from the Range of Light. Some have more contrast, some have less. It is sort of like a slightly different interpretation. I closely compared a couple of the photos, in one case, I found the 400 has more shadow details in the deep shadow area, but the Range of Light counterpart has more emotional impact; the larger size may have to do with the emotional part. In another case, the 400 has less overall contrast, and a lot more shadow information comparing to the Range of Light, and I like the 400 interpretation better. This book is a must have for Ansel Adams follower.

"Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs" covers his work from the 1920s through the 1960s, organized chronologically into the largest compilation ever published of his work. Over one-third of the photos took place in the Sierra Nevada mountains - his favorite area. Adams was able to transform geographic reality into moving emotional experiences. Though a passion for the preservation of the natural world guided his photographs, he also included photos of buildings and an occasional individual. Close-ups and long-views, sunny and cloudy days - all were mastered by Adams. I particularly like to look at these photos before going out with my camera - helps generate ideas.

I have most of Ansel Adams' books. This is the least impressive of all. Small horizontal pages with vertical landscapes (sometimes only one 5 x 7 on a page) added up to merchandising, certainly not doing justice to this great photographer. Larger book size and orienting the photographs with the page layout would have been FAR better. We would have had to turn the book 90 degrees to view some of his works, but I would have preferred that. The selected photographs are quite good, but Adams' work requires a better presentation than this. Leave this on the shelf and buy multiple other volumes and be far more pleased.

Anyone who has been the places that Ansel Adams photographed knows that the horizons he so often captured seem to go all the way to heaven. While in the early days of photography it was difficult to reproduce large images in books, today there is no problem except for publishers

assuming that buyers prefer saving money over having the images be of the right size to express their emotional majesty. I will say that the overall reproduction quality is quite good. Not too much is lost in terms of detail from the smaller size of the images, but the emotional impact is clearly lessened. You feel like you are looking at an image rather than imagining yourself in the scene. That flaw aside, Ms. Andrea Stillman successfully draws on her close contact (pun intended) with Ansel Adams to select excellent examples of his finest and most interesting work. For those who depend on icons to guide the way, she's included lots of those. Although the book doesn't have much writing in it, I appreciated the notes beginning on page 413 that explained the context of the photographs, methods used, and personal stories related to their taking and exhibition. I think you will, too. The book is conveniently organized chronologically with facing pages wisely selected to bring out common and contrasting elements in his work. I especially enjoyed seeing works of his that I hadn't seen before. From this entire collection, I also gained many perspectives on his compositional style and how that evolved over time to be more awe-inspiring. Nice job!

Ansel Adams is a legend. You may adore his style or you may regard it as overly technical with little aesthetic appeal. In any case, if you want to "see" what he has done, this is the book, period. There is also some well written text at the beginning of each chapter. More explanations and/or anecdotes are provided at the end of the book. There are hints at his life and personality but this book has not been designed to satisfy a reader seeking such information. It is for displaying his photographs only. The order is chronological but not strictly so. The earliest examples are from his childhood! The design and printing quality is very good. The price is not outrageous. I liked the book very much and I still reach it to look at some of the photographs I admire...

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