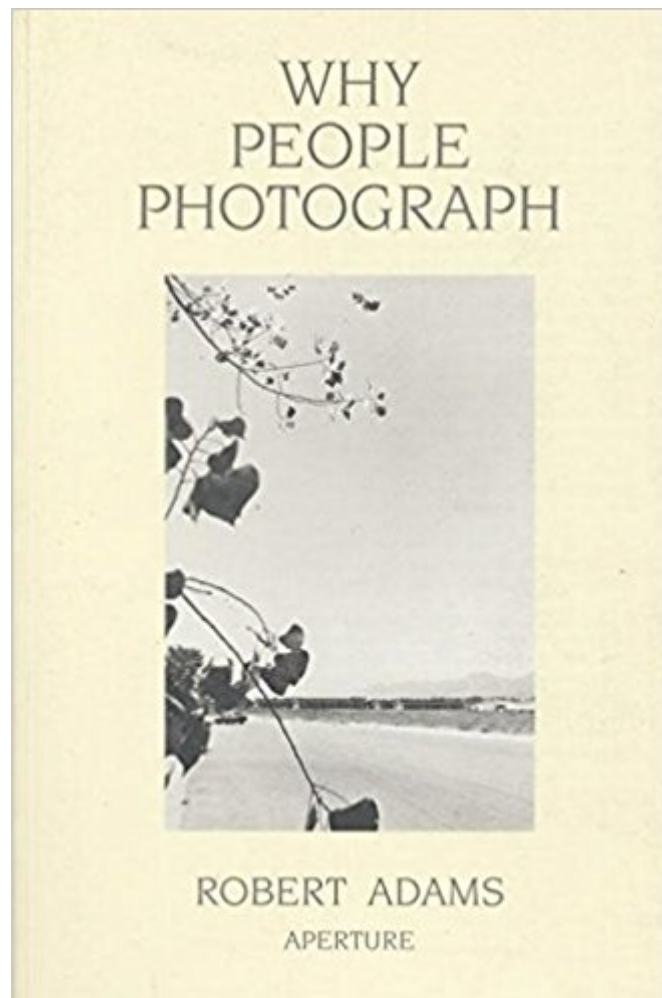




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Robert Adams: Why People Photograph: Selected Essays And Reviews



Synopsis

A now classic text on the art, *Why People Photograph* gathers a selection of essays by the great master photographer Robert Adams, tackling such diverse subjects as collectors, humor, teaching, money and dogs. Adams also writes brilliantly on Edward Weston, Paul Strand, Laura Gilpin, Judith Joy Ross, Susan Meiselas, Michael Schmidt, Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, and Eugène Atget. The book closes with two essays on "working conditions" in the nineteenth- and twentieth-century American West, and the essay "Two Landscapes." Adams writes: At our best and most fortunate we make pictures because of what stands in front of the camera, to honor what is greater and more interesting than we are.

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Customer Reviews

Adams, a noted photographer of the American West, dislikes words that describe pictures. In this collection of poetic, thought-provoking and highly original essays, he examines Paul Strand's devotion to America and analyzes the origins of his art; he looks at the contradictions in Ansel Adams' life and work, and comes to his own conclusions. He writes movingly not only of people but of place--his beloved West--and his belief that "we live in several landscapes at once, among them the landscape of hope..."

"At our best and most fortunate we make pictures because of what stands in front of the camera, to honor what is greater and more interesting than we are."-Robert Adams

This is a wonderful collection of essays and I'd recommend it for any photographer (pro or amateur) who takes his work seriously. So thought provoking that I refer back to it often, and never tire of rereading passages that I've underlined. I've loaned it to two other professional photographers and they both loved it.

A good tempered view outside photography in.

Serious and potentially serious photographers will reflect upon that question as they read this. Adams lays it on the line: "Almost all photographers have incurred large expenses in the pursuit of tiny audiences, finding the wonder that they'd hoped to share is something few want to receive." Some will find declarations like these oddly fortifying. If you can't find a large audience for your photography, it may not (or may) be on account of its quality; that's just the way it is, so let's get on with it. It's unusual to find a book that considers photography and many of its eminent practitioners with disciplined philosophical thought. Adams provides that along with some sad reflections on the deteriorating conditions of the American landscape, conditions that prevail just about everywhere else, no doubt. So much has been altered by "progress," so many places have been fenced off that one has to look very hard indeed for the briefest glance at the landscapes of the soul.

For the photographer enthusiasts, Robert Adams provides an understanding of the essence of the art of photography. His perspective and in-depth understanding of photography because part of my photography foundation.

GREAT... Easy to read and thought provoking. Well worth it.

words of wisdom.

inspiring, engaging and sincere. a super book for those who love photography.

Gives anyone interested in photography food for thought. Helps you think about more than just what you are shooting but also why you are shooting it.

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