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BOOK REVIEWS

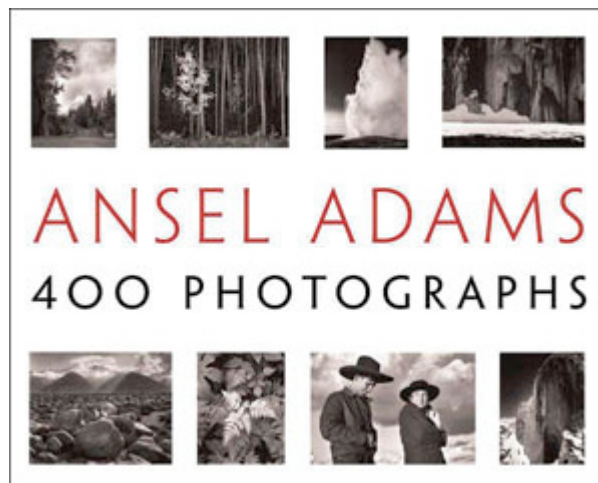
Top Photo Books Of 2007; Pictures & Words For Business And Pleasure

C.A. Boylan, December, 2007

Each year we present our annual guide to some of the best photography books published in the past year. This year's selection spans a wild variety of topics, all expressed through beautiful images and thoughtful words. I'm pleased to offer you a brief glimpse at what I consider to be the best photography books of 2007.

***Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs*; edited by Andrea G. Stillman; Little, Brown and Company; 432 pages; \$40; (ISBN-13: 978-0-316-11772-2)**

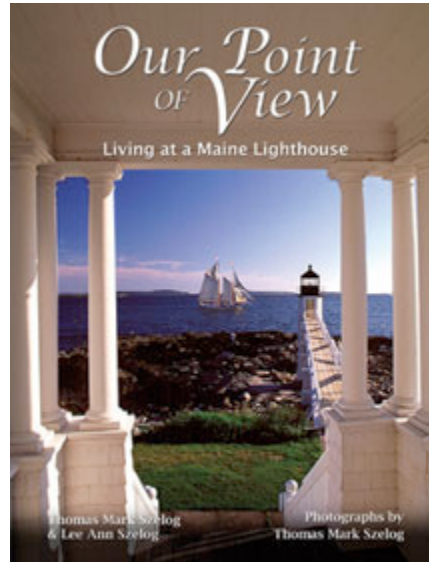
This book documents the dramatic evolution of Ansel Adams' work over the course of his career. It features a marvelous collection of 400 duotone images presented in chronological order from 1916-'68. Together, the images and text offer a greater insight into the life and work of this amazing artist and photographic icon. *Ansel Adams: 400 Photographs* is a must-have addition to your personal library and a book that is certain to offer inspiration for years to come.



***Our Point of View: Fourteen Years at a Maine Lighthouse*; by Thomas Mark Szelog and Lee Ann Szelog; Down East Books; 112 pages; \$24.95; (ISBN: 0-89272-704-7)**

Our Point of View is a visual journal that expertly documents the dramatic moments of the Szelogs 14 years spent living and working at the Marshall

Point Lighthouse in Port Clyde, Maine. Their words and images capture the tranquil beauty of their home and the many interesting adventures they shared, from saving a lost baby seal to having the lighthouse used as a backdrop for a major motion picture.



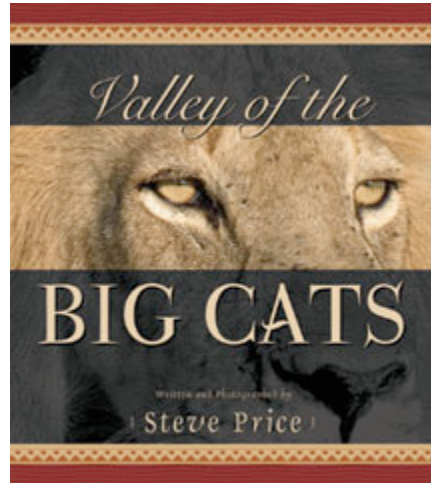
***Fandomania: Characters & Cosplay*; photographs by Elena Dorfman; Aperture; 144 pages; \$35; (ISBN: 978-1-59711-035-8)**

Fandomania opens the door to a new worldwide pop culture phenomenon called cosplay. The term was created from the words “costume” and “play” and is used to describe a wildly popular trend where participants of all ages dress as their favorite characters from video games, Japanese graphic novels, and animated television series, then act out scenes in character. Elena Dorfman captures the passion and creativity of cosplay in 75 vibrant images made against a stark black background, which allows the viewer to focus on each tiny detail in the costumes. Explore this exciting subculture with Dorfman and you might find yourself inspired to join the crowd.



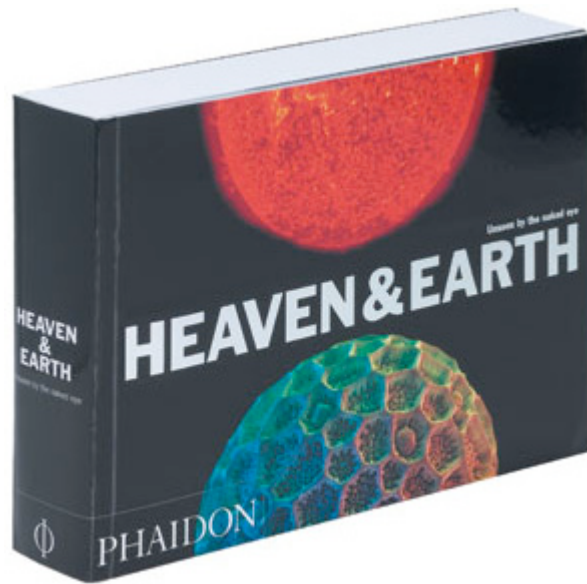
***Valley of the Big Cats*; by Steve Price; Brown Books; 264 pages; \$40.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-933285-61-0)**

Renowned nature photographer and writer Steve Price transformed his amazing African adventures into this exciting book. *Valley of the Big Cats* explores the untouched wonders of Zambia's South Luangwa National Park through sharp, vibrant images that seem to leap off the page. Price provides stunning close-up shots of Africa's most treasured animals and pairs them with highly informative text that brings the images to life. Price deftly creates an entertaining and educational safari diary that is sure to delight you.



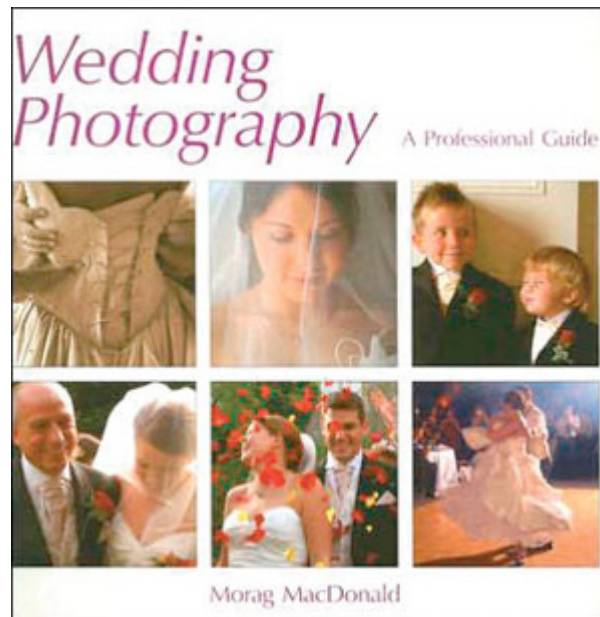
***Heaven & Earth: Unseen by the Naked Eye*; by David Malin and Katherine Roucoux; Phaidon; 384 pages; \$24.95; (ISBN: 978-0-7148-4760-3)**

The naked eye is unable to see the tiny details of microscopic objects or the infinite face of the universe, but with the aid of high-powered microscopes and telescopes we are able to see far beyond our normal limitations. *Heaven & Earth* contains a collection of 296 color and 60 black and white images that provide a fascinating glimpse into these unseen worlds and reveals the true beauty and complexity of nature. The images are paired with educational captions that offer scientific explanations and a brief history behind each shot.



***Wedding Photography: A Professional Guide*; by Morag MacDonald; Argentum; 128 pages; \$24.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-9025-3847-1)**

Expert photographer Morag MacDonald provides excellent advice to help you excel in the high-pressure world of wedding photography. She uses a generous supply of sample images and explains how to use lighting, emotion, framing, and digital enhancement to your best advantage. This guide features step-by-step instructions on planning and capturing magnificent images that document every treasured moment to produce a top-quality album that is certain to please your clients.



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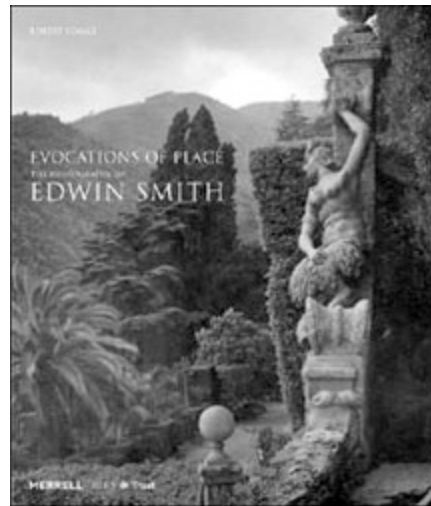
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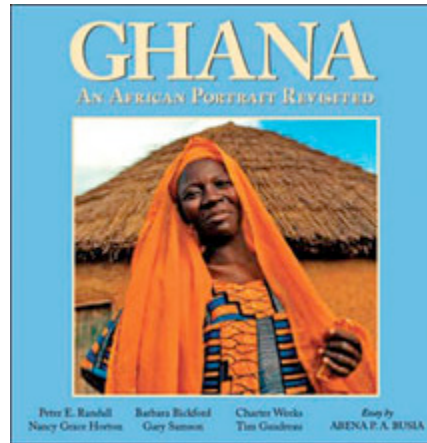
***Evocations of Place: The Photography of Edwin Smith*; by Robert Elwall; Merrell; 176 pages; \$59.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-8589-4373-2)**

Author Robert Elwall is the photographic curator of the British Architectural Library and his book explores the work of Edwin Smith, one of Britain's most acclaimed photographers. *Evocations of Place* features a collection of 181 of Smith's elegant duotone images that expertly capture the historic architecture, lavishly decorated interiors, lush landscapes, and breathtaking gardens that England is so famous for. Many of the images presented here are rarely displayed, which makes this book an inspirational and intriguing treasure.



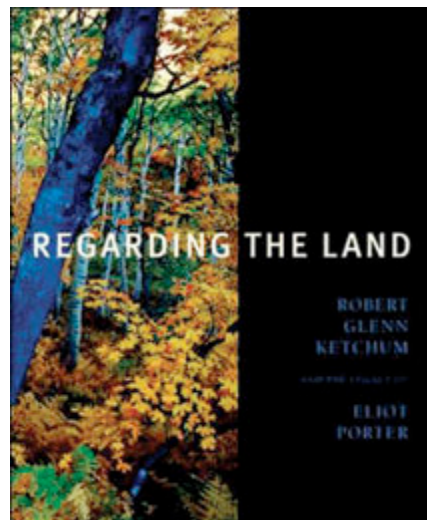
***Ghana: An African Portrait Revisited*; by Peter E. Randall; Peter E. Randall Publisher LLC; 320 pages; \$40; (ISBN-13: 978-1-931807-47-0)**

This book is a visual celebration of this beautiful African treasure created from the works of six accomplished photographers. Peter E. Randall, Nancy Grace Horton, Tim Gaudreau, Gary Samson, Charter Weeks, and Barbara Bickford document the fruits that resulted from 50 years of Ghana's independence with over 150 full-color images. These candid portraits of daily life reveal many of the positive changes the people of Ghana have experienced and their hope for an even brighter future.



***Regarding the Land: Robert Glenn Ketchum and the Legacy of Eliot Porter*; by John Rohrbach with Robert Glenn Ketchum; Amon Carter Museum; 128 pages; \$49.95; (ISBN: 978-0-88360-100-6)**

Eliot Porter was among the first photographers to capture the magnificent beauty of nature with color film. His work was widely exhibited and served to inspire future generations of artists and environmental activists. Robert Glenn Ketchum found his inspiration here and has risen to become one of America's leading landscape photographers. In this book, John Rohrbach, senior curator of photography at the Amon Carter Museum, and Ketchum explore Porter's images and how the next generation of artists has expanded upon his unique vision of landscape photography.



***Predator: Life and Death in the African Bush*; by Mark C. Ross and David Reesor; Abrams; 208 pages; \$35; (ISBN: 978-0-8109-9301-3)**

Photographer, writer, safari guide, biologist, and bush pilot Mark C. Ross spent more than 30 years in Kenya gaining knowledge and a deep understanding of Africa's wildlife. Ross and David Reesor have filled this informative book with a beautiful collection of 175 full-color images that serve as a virtual safari, focusing on the daily lives of the five top predators. Exciting photographs of lions, cheetahs, hyenas, leopards, and crocodiles are paired with highly educational text and the removable pocket guide offers an easy-to-read list of traits, statistics, and viewing tips for each predator. This is a journey you simply won't want to miss.



***SNOG: A Puppy's Guide to Love*; by Rachael Hale; Little, Brown and Company; 160 pages; \$19.99; (ISBN-13: 978-0-316-00295-0)**

Photographer Rachael Hale has won fame around the world for her whimsical images. This time, she treats us to an adorable collection of lovable puppy portraits. Captured against subtle backgrounds or with simple props, these puppies gaze at the lens with human-like expressions of curiosity and playfulness. I guarantee that you won't be able to resist this book.



***Portrait Photographer's Handbook 3rd Edition*; by Bill Hurter; Amherst Media; 128 pages; \$34.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-58428-207-5)**

This guide offers excellent advice on how to master the complex art of portrait photography. The book features a wonderful collection of 140 images created by such notable photographers as Tony Corbell, Monte Zucker, and Chris Nelson. The photos are used to illustrate Bill Hurter's comprehensive lessons on everything from choosing the right equipment, to the use of proper lighting and posing, to tips on digital retouching. He explores all aspects of portraiture from classic to contemporary in order to help you grow as an artist and improve the quality of your work.



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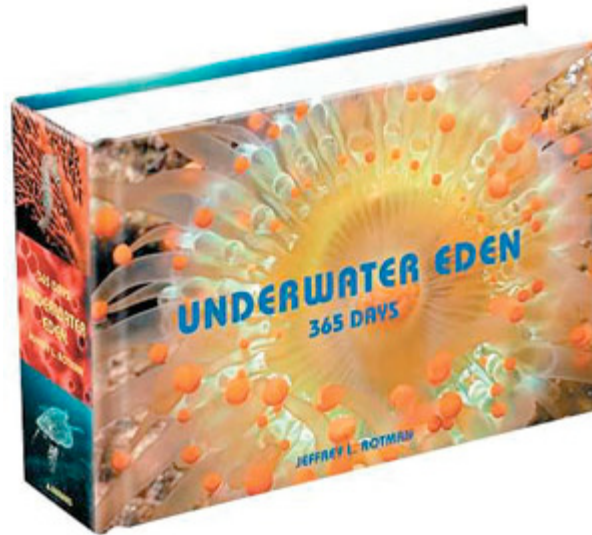
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***Underwater Eden: 365 Days;* by Jeffrey L. Rotman; Abrams; 744 pages; \$29.95; (ISBN: 978-0-8109-9311-2)**

Renowned underwater photographer Jeffrey L. Rotman transformed his passion for the ocean into this amazing coffee-table book. This stunning collection of 365 vibrant images documents the diversity of life to be found around coral reefs from the Red Sea to San Clemente Island, Folly Cove, and the Great Barrier Reef. The images are expertly paired with highly informative captions filled with scientific facts and trivia, which make this book as educational as it is beautiful.



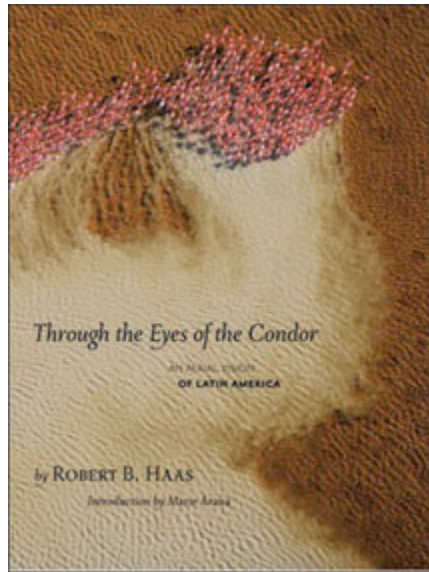
***The Color of Serendipity: A Journey Through Sri Lanka;* by Nishantha Gunawardena; Traces Of Eden Foundation; 120 pages; \$27.95; (ISBN-13: 978-0-9769972-2-1)**

This coffee-table book features a breathtaking collection of 78 vibrant images that depict the exotic beauty that seamlessly blends with daily life in Sri Lanka. The photographer expertly captured candid portraits, the lush green landscape, and detailed studies of the lavishly carved Buddhist temples. It's a virtual tour of this faraway land and one that you will not soon forget.



***Through the Eyes of the Condor: An Aerial Vision of Latin America;* by Robert B. Haas, introduction by Marie Arana; National Geographic Books; 232 pages; \$50; (ISBN: 978-1-4262-0132-5)**

For this beautiful coffee-table book renowned aerial photographer Robert B. Haas traveled across South America capturing breathtaking bird's eye images from Argentina to Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela, and beyond. From the vantage point of helicopters and small planes, once familiar landscapes transform into a complex study of color and pattern. Haas provides an amazing collection of 100 images that is certain to shed new light on the natural wonders and manmade structures of South America in a way that you've never experienced before.



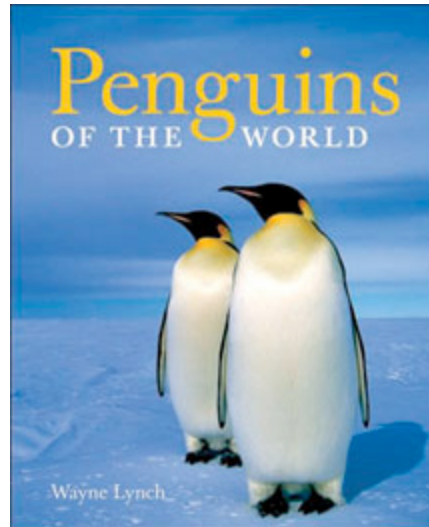
***Seashells*; photographs by Josie Iselin, text by Sandy Carlson; Abrams; 144 pages; \$17.95; (ISBN: 978-0-8109-9327-3)**

Photographer Josie Iselin and marine geologist and paleontologist Sandy Carlson have produced a tiny treasure of a book that explores the scientific facts and delicate beauty of seashells. Shot against stark white or black backgrounds, Iselin's 100 images expertly capture the fine detail, complex shapes, colors, and patterns unique to each type of shell. Carlson's rich text provides educational insight into the nature of the shell and the animal that once called it home. Their talents have merged together in a harmonious combination that is a treat for the eye as well as the mind.



***Penguins of the World: Second Edition*; by Wayne Lynch, M.D.; Firefly Books Ltd.; 176 pages; \$24.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-55407-274-3)**

Writer and wildlife photographer Dr. Wayne Lynch is a self-proclaimed penguin addict. He has transformed his fascination for these adorable creatures into a delightful book filled with 130 of his color images and plenty of scientific facts that reveal that humans and penguins have much in common. Featuring in-depth information on habitat, species characteristics, population size, family life, and survival skills, *Penguins of the World* is as educational as it is entertaining.



Closeup Shooting: A Guide To Closeup, Tabletop, and Macro Photography; by Cyrill Harnischmacher; Rocky Nook; 122 pages; \$24.95; (ISBN: 978-1-933952-09-3)

In this informative guide, photographer Cyrill Harnischmacher reveals the secrets of capturing the complex beauty of tiny objects, insects, and flowers. He offers detailed, professional-quality advice on choosing and using the proper equipment, backdrops, and lighting for each subject. Harnischmacher even includes tips to help overcome common problems, safety considerations, dealing with the demands of the weather, and perfecting your underwater close-up photography.



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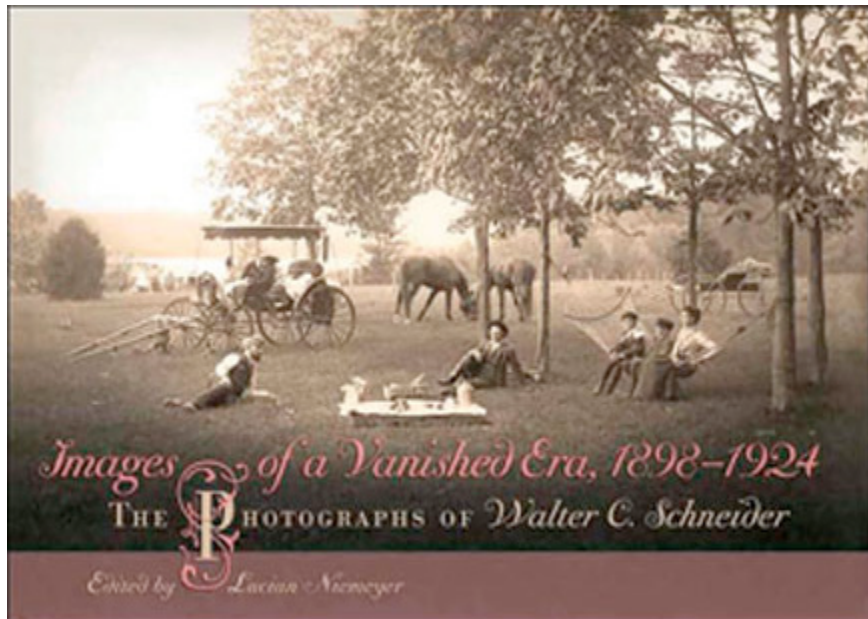
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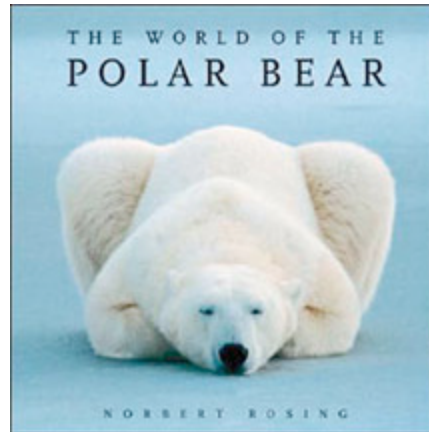
***Images of a Vanished Era, 1898–1924: The Photographs of Walter C. Schneider*; edited by Lucian Niemeyer; University of Missouri Press; 192 pages; \$49.95; (ISBN: 978-0-8262-1723-3)**

Photographer Lucian Niemeyer recently made an amazing discovery. In a dark basement he found nearly 1200 glass-plate negatives dating back to the turn of the century. This collection was the work of attorney and avid photographer Walter Schneider, whose images document daily life in cities and rural towns across America and Europe. Niemeyer filled this book with 168 of Schneider's finest images and paired them with informative captions that depict a world in transition from horse and buggy days to the modern era.



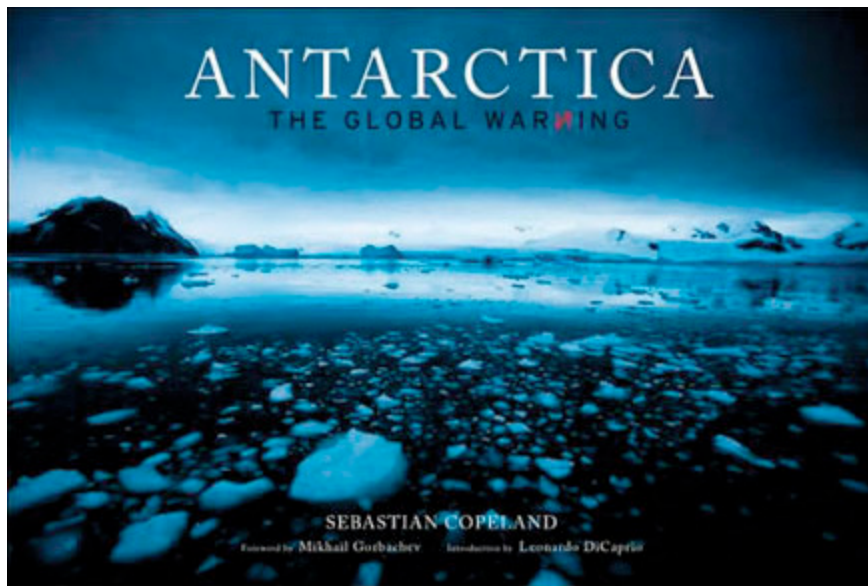
***The World of the Polar Bear*; by Norbert Rosing; Firefly Books Ltd.; 204 pages; \$45; (ISBN: 1-55407-155-0)**

The harsh temperatures and dangers of the polar regions are nothing new for photographer Norbert Rosing. He has had plenty of time to become accustomed to the difficulties of working in sub-zero temperatures because he spent over 18 years capturing the breathtaking images found in this book. Rosing documents the daily lives of the polar bears from spring to winter as they hunt, mate, raise their young, and travel through the frigid landscape. The images are highlighted by informative captions that provide insight into the bears' behavior and their environment.



***Antarctica: The Global Warning*; by Sebastian Copeland, foreword by Mikhail Gorbachev, introduction by Leonardo DiCaprio; Earth Aware Editions; 206 pages; \$55; (ISBN: 978-1-933784-19-9)**

Sebastian Copeland is an award-winning photographer, lecturer, and environmental activist. His collection of full-color images captures the beauty of this frozen landscape and its wildlife, documents the long forgotten remnants of past expeditions, and brings to light the devastating effects of global warming on the Antarctic ice shelf. Copeland's text offers scientific facts about the rapid pace of global warming and the effect it could have on our future.

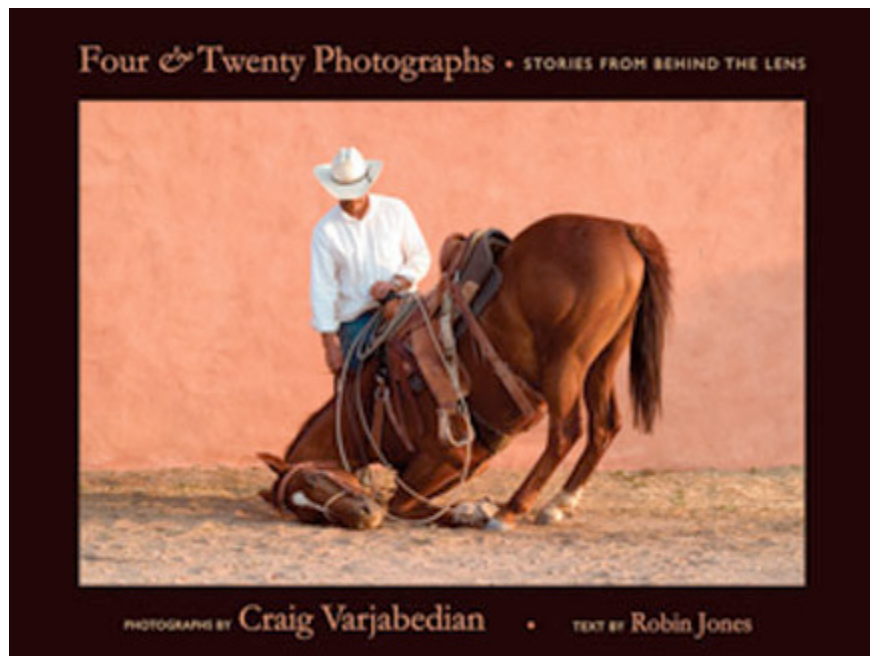


***Big Sky: Wild West Panorama*; by Tim Fitzharris; Firefly Books Ltd.; 160 pages; \$45; (ISBN: 1-55407-176-3)**

Photographer and author Tim Fitzharris brings us an inspiring collection of 72 panoramic images that celebrate the rugged natural beauty of the North American West. The chapters begin with a brief Native American verse and are divided by the type of landscape, ranging from the plains to the mountains, canyons, deserts, and the Pacific Coast. Fitzharris even provides richly descriptive text that sets the scene for each breathtaking shot. Together, the images and words will make this book a cherished part of your personal library.



***Four and Twenty Photographs: Stories from Behind the Lens;* photographs by Craig Varjabedian, text by Robin Jones; University of New Mexico Press; 136 pages; \$29.95; (ISBN: 978-0-8263-4094-8)** Four and Twenty Photographs offers an intriguing glimpse at the work of fine art photographer Craig Varjabedian and his passion for the American West. Writer Robin Jones provides colorful text that reveals the story behind this collection of 61 images. Together they explore the creative process from start to finish and the wide range of emotions that are frozen in time the instant a photograph is captured.



***Wild Amazon: A Photographer's Incredible Journey;* by Nick Gordon; Evans Mitchell Books; 164 pages; \$34.95; (ISBN: 1-901268-30-6)**

Nick Gordon was one of England's top photojournalists and natural history filmmakers. His passion to capture and preserve the beauty of the Amazon earned him the nickname Rainforest Man. In spite of the many hazards of life in the jungle, Gordon spent years there exploring places few people had ever seen before. *Wild Amazon* was completed shortly before his death. The book documents the time he spent in the Amazon and the rich diversity of life he found there.



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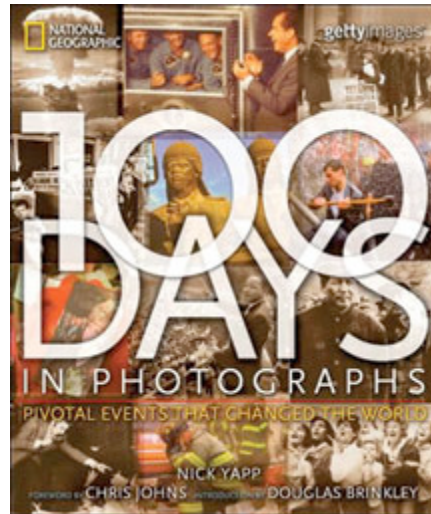


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***100 Days in Photographs: Pivotal Events that Changed the World;* by Nick Yapp, foreword by Douglas Brinkley, introduction by Chris Johns; National Geographic Books; 320 pages; \$35; (ISBN: 978-1-4262-0197-4)**

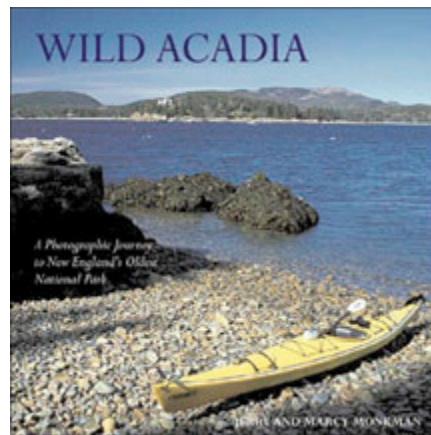
Together, National Geographic and Getty Images' impressive photographic archive contains 80 million images. The creation of this book was a joint venture meant to guide the reader through 100 of some of the most important moments in world history. Author and historian Nick Yapp provides a wealth of in-depth and highly educational text that reveals the true story behind each photograph. This is a dramatic journey that begins in May 1851 and comes to a close in August 2005, a trip

through time that will open the door to understanding how one event or person can change the future.



***Wild Acadia: A Photographic Journey to New England's Oldest National Park*; images by Jerry and Marcy Monkman, text by Jerry Monkman; University Press of New England; 122 pages; \$26; (ISBN: 1-58465-524-0)**

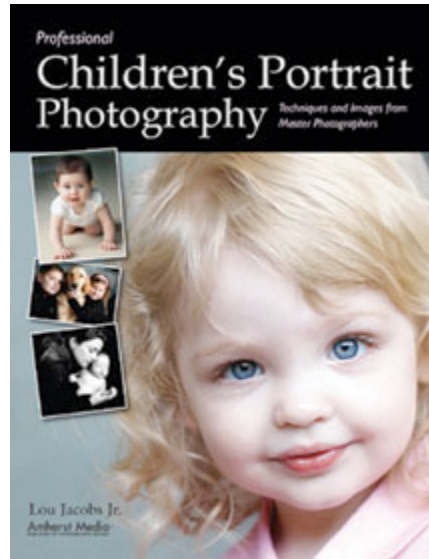
This book allows the reader to join the Monkmans, professional photographers and writers, as they explore the rugged beauty of Acadia National Park. This popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, tourists, and fellow artists offers 48,000 acres of rocky coastland and lush forests filled with a wealth of photographic opportunities. The book contains 84 full-color images paired with informative text that provides a deeper understanding of the journey. Together, the words and pictures are certain to spark a desire to visit New England in the very near future.



***Professional Children's Portrait Photography: Techniques and Images from Master Photographers*; by Lou Jacobs Jr.; Amherst Media; 128 pages; \$34.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-58428-205-1)**

With the aid of sample images from 15 successful photographers in the field, Lou Jacobs Jr. provides a variety of techniques to help you create and capture the perfect child portraits. Each chapter is devoted to the work of a single artist. Their images are used to highlight in-depth lessons on choosing the right equipment, proper lighting strategies, and

how to work with children to get the best expressions and poses. This guide promises to help you improve your photography business by taking your images to the next level.



***Children's Portrait Photography: A Photojournalistic Approach;* by Kevin Newsome; Amherst Media; 128 pages; \$34.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-58428-206-8)**

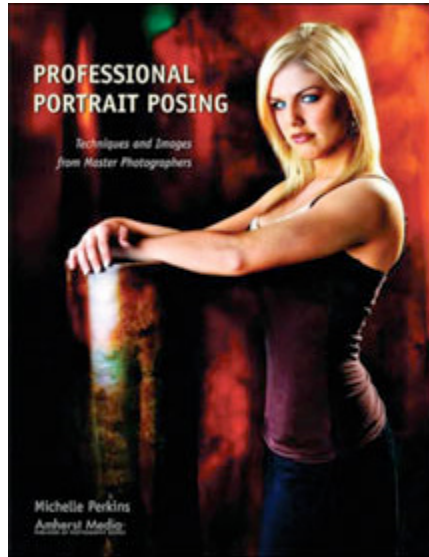
Professional photographer Kevin Newsome's guide provides advice on adapting the popular photojournalistic style to capture stunning, modern child portraits. He provides tips on streamlining studio operations, working with your subject to elicit great images, shooting strategies that are age-specific, using props and posing to maximum effect, and ways to build your client base to increase profits. This guide is certain to improve the quality of your images and help your business flourish.



***Professional Portrait Posing: Techniques and Images from Master Photographers;* by Michelle Perkins; Amherst Media; 128 pages; \$34.95; (ISBN-13: 978-1-58428-211-2)**

Professional photographer and writer Michelle Perkins filled this guide

with a breathtaking collection of 190 color images and plenty of top-quality advice from such notable artists as Jeff Smith, Monte Zucker, and Tim Schooler. Each of them provides tips on how to use proper posing techniques to maximum advantage in every field, from commercial imaging to fashion and traditional portraiture. This information is certain to improve the quality of your work and boost your business.



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