



Uncommon Places: 50 Unpublished Photographs 1973-1978 (English, French and German Edition)

By Gerry Badger

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Stephen Shore (b. 1947) is a true artistic innovator whose work has opened up new frontiers for contemporary photography. His photographs of American scenes unveil the exceptional beauty to be found in the everyday. As one of the first art photographers to work in color, Shore pioneered such contemporary genres as the diaristic snapshot (later taken up by Nan Goldin and Wolfgang Tillmans) and the monumentalized landscape (as later practiced by Becher-school photographers Thomas Struth and Andreas Gursky). This monograph offers the first complete examination of Shore's long and storied career, from his residency at Warhol's Factory to his experiments in conceptual photography; from his landmark series AMERICAN SURFACES to his continued exploration of emerging techniques. Shore's high-key portraits of America's chromatic landscape can be found in the permanent collections of major museums all over the world.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This survey of photographer Shore's images juxtaposes some of his precociously early work as part of Andy Warhol's Factory with the now classic color photographs of American life from the '70s and Shore's most recent black-and-white pictures. The book is organized into four sections, each focusing on a different set of images. Art historian Fried's disorganized interview with the artist kicks things off with a selection of images from Shore's two career-making books, *Uncommon Places* and *American Surfaces*. Critic Lange's wordy overview of Shore's artistic progression examines images from the same periods as the books. Photographer Sternfeld contributes an in-depth analysis of one photograph, taken in 1974, of a street in a small town in Massachusetts. The book closes with images selected by Shore himself, alongside his own writing and extracts from texts that he admires, including a paragraph about Chinese poets, who accept the world exactly as they find it in all its terms, and with profound simplicity therein find sufficient solace. It's a shame that Shore's section isn't longer, as that line perhaps explains his exceptional body of work more completely than any of the learned musings that precede it. (*June*)

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Review

'fascinating' Metro, 27 March 2008 'One of the most remarkable, yet understated imagists of modern photography - Shore's skill at capturing mundane scenes and transforming them into crisp, fascinating images is unparalleled.' Gay Times, April 2008

About the Author

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.

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