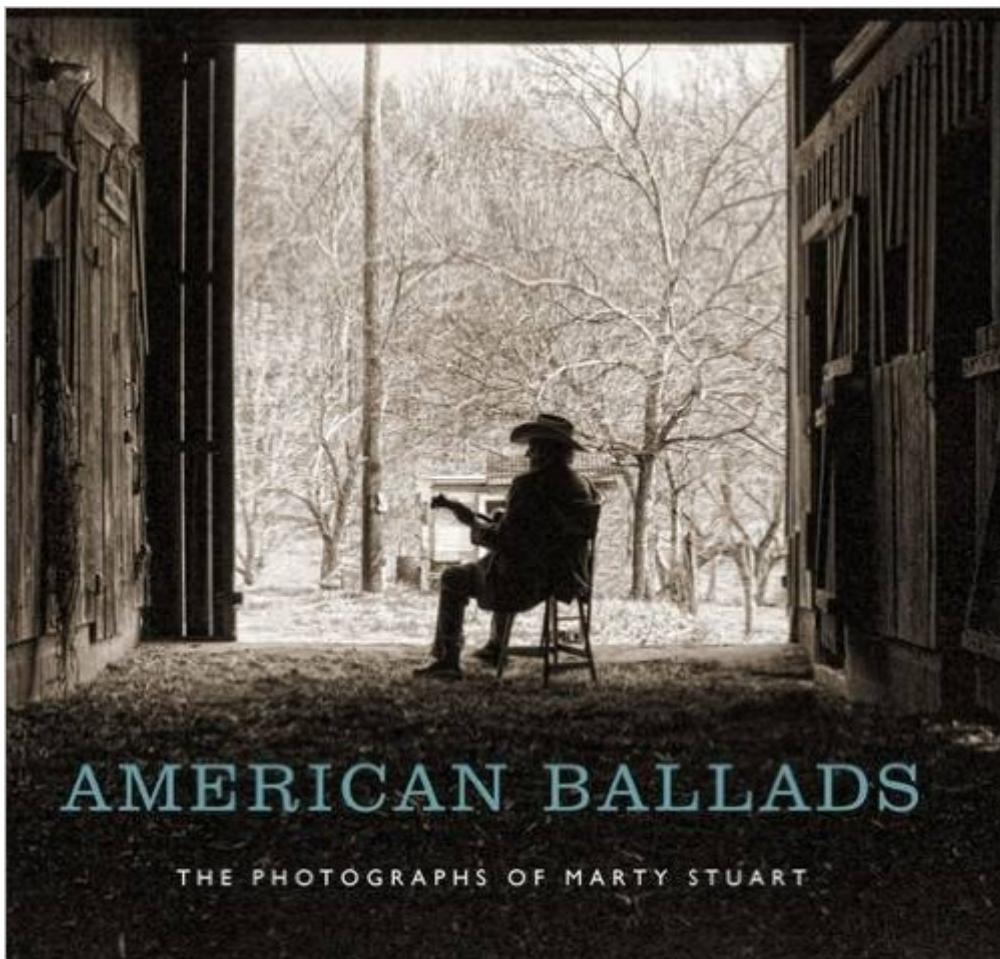


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American Ballads: The Photographs Of Marty Stuart (A Frist Center For The Visual Arts Title)



Synopsis

Although known primarily as a country music star, Marty Stuart has been taking photographs of the people and places surrounding him since he first went on tour with bluegrass performer Lester Flatt at age twelve. His inspirations to do this include his own mother, Hilda Stuart, whom he watched document their family's everyday life in Mississippi, bassist Milt Hinton's photographs of fellow jazz artists, and Edward Curtis's well-known images of Native Americans at the turn of the twentieth century. Stuart's work ranges from intimate and often candid behind-the-scenes depictions of legendary musicians, to images that capture the eccentricities of characters from the back roads of America, to dignified portraits of members of the impoverished Lakota tribe in South Dakota, a people he was introduced to through his former father-in-law, Johnny Cash. Whatever the subject, Stuart is able to sensitively tease out something unexpected or hidden beneath the surface through a skillful awareness of timing and composition as well as a unique relationship with many of the subjects based on years of friendship and trust. This book will present images from these three bodies of work: "Badlands," on his time with the Lakota; "The Masters," from his work with musicians like Bill Monroe, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Dolly Parton, George Jones, Kitty Wells, Willie Nelson, and Waylon Jennings; and "Blue Line Hot Shots." As Stuart explains, "The newly built Interstate Highway System was at one time represented on our maps by the color red, while the two-lane highways and back roads of the nation were represented in blue. The back roads are where you'll find some of the people that I admire, respect, and always keep an eye out for. ... They are renegades | As Roger Miller once said, 'These people flush to the beat of a different plumber.' " The photographs are framed by an introduction by Stuart and a context-setting essay by photography historian Susan Edwards, executive director of the First Center for the Visual Arts. The book and accompanying exhibition at the First Center demonstrate that Marty Stuart is a master storyteller not only through his songs but also through his revealing and compelling photographs.

Excerpt

"When I first began traveling I loved the adventure of going from town to town and exploring what each place had to offer. Whenever possible, on the day of the show I walked the streets and back roads, gathering stories and songs from local folks. I studied everything from the different kinds of architecture that surrounded me to the majesty of the sunsets and how they affected the mood of the town I was in. That first season was filled with the joy of a new musical life taking flight. The applause, the spotlight, the sparkle of the fame, the freedom of 'here today, go somewhere else tomorrow' charmed me night after night, day after day, until show business found its mark and became a way of life. I enjoyed every minute of the dance. I still love those things, but most of all it's the people that I've enjoyed along the way, namely the characters. The kind of

characters who can be defined as American originals."--from the Introduction by Marty Stuart

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is one the best \$ values I have found in many years. As a photographer, Stuart, who is self taught but has the eye of a great visual artist as well as a person who was in the right place at the right time. The deep emotional insights in these photos could only be made by someone who loved this genre from 'the inside' of traditional Country music and it's great prophets .Stuarts photographs have also made me appreciate his genius as both a musician and a raconteur of the culture and personalities of traditional 20th Century Americana music. This is a masterpiece.

While best known as a singer/songwriter, this book shows another side of Marty. With his touring and award shows etc, he is able to see a lot of the country and a lot of the stars and people that he met while he was out and about.

I love Marty Stuart's work... His musicianship and his photography. He's written a wonderful compendium on country music. I have the previous volume as well. As the cover shows, he's got a great eye, great access and relationship affords visual outcomes not otherwise achieved. I highly recommend this piece and it came in a jiffy!

This was for my mom's birthday it brought tears of joy to her face. I also got her pilgrims, sinners, saints, and prophets highly highly recommended. I am not in to country music but I can say in research for these two items I now have a new found respect for Marty Stuart and the legacy of country music. everything about this order was great product, price, shipment.

I was a little disappointed in the photographs. Some of them are really beautiful and well composed. Others look like snapshots taken on the fly with little artfulness. Gotta love Marty Stuart though. He's a prodigious artist on so many levels and I'm happy to have this book, notwithstanding my slight disappointment in the photography.

Love music, musicians and b/w photography. This book was recommended by a luthier's wife at the Healdsburg Guitar Show in Santa Rosa in 2013. I heard the luthier, Marty, play his two guitars he made and his wife added some informational background on the songs he played and the guitar's construction. Well, after that performance I visited their display table in the show and had a great time talking with them both. It was the highlight of the show.

Purchased based on an NPR interview with Marty Stuart. It is a beautiful treasure of the pictorial history of Country Music.

Excellent photography from a unique first person vantage point by one of America's great performing artists. Mr. Stuart is both a gifted musician and photographer. Thoroughly enjoyable.

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