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The Phone Book



Synopsis

Believing that it is the photographer, not the camera that makes the photograph, this is a collection of iPhone photographs made while traveling across the world. The Phone Book places two photographs on opposing pages, creating spreads that invite the viewer to discover their own connections between the images and their own interpretation and experience. The Phone Book is a thread to broadening one's artistic sensibility, knowledge, visual literacy, and sense of connection with people and places throughout the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Artist Eye and The Digital Age: The Phone Book by Robert Herman is filled with timeless yet contemporary imagery photographed in a square format with an iPhone. Herman's ability to see color, texture, light and shadow with his uncanny sense of composition has produced a kaleidoscopic selection of unique imagery that is both refreshing and inspirational when viewed. My favorite images are Herman's multiple imaged reflections of New York City street life.

This book of I-phone images is so rich, clever and intriguing I can not stop looking at it. It is incredible that so much is there---the only way to "get it all" is to spend time with a few images at a time, put the book down and return to it from time to time. So, I leave it out on a table I pass daily. Like a gift, every time.

WOW! Great book. First of all it's perfectly sized (7 inches x 7 inches). Not a huge, over-sized coffee table book and therefore both unimposing and very approachable, easy to carry, hold and page through; also perfect for a desktop, any small table or shelf, even makes a great gift (and in my case a great holiday stocking stuffer for several friends). The book is beautifully printed, and the images reveal Herman turning his trained street-photographer's eye onto an international arena. That he successfully does so with his iPhone is all the more remarkable, and insightful - given its position as the traveler's go-to camera in an increasingly globalized world. Herman thus takes what has become a mundane medium employed for selfies and elevates it to the level of art. Likewise, his poignant selection and pairing of images throughout the book gesture towards both the increasing homogeneity of our current globalized climate, while simultaneously permitting us to recognize and distinguish one culture from another (without perhaps even knowing exactly where in the world one is at any given moment within the book - until, that is, we glance at the short caption under each image). The richness of this world becomes increasingly insightful and complex with every subsequent viewing of the book, and as such is further proof of Herman's skill as a photographer. I highly recommend The Phone Book to anyone who loves photography, travel, and, of course, their iPhone.

Robert Herman's work consistently teaches me to slow down and see our world. His ability to record the mundane moments of life and elevate them to powerful scenes of beauty seem to come from not only his skill as a photographer but from a deep well of joy and respect. These images shot all over the world are still lifes, with an energy that moves. Herman has paired images on facing pages that speak to one another, in a silent language. Upon first glance the relationships are obvious, the patina of peeled paint with a flurry of clouds, but Herman invites you to go deeper, if you have the patience. People, architecture, landscape, tablescapesâ "all emit a compelling humanity, celebrated in excuberant saturated color or graphic black and white. Herman wrote that he loves photographing with his iPhone because he can remain unseen, but his presence in this book is a remarkable journey of the intimate details that comprise his life.

The Phone Book is perfectly itself. Myriad moments mined from colorful street scenes, wonderful compositions stolen on the sly, and people, humorous, sad and beautiful. I've studied every page. I have also seen large prints of many of these photos, and they surprise me yet again on a different scale with their freshness, vitality, quietness, and, above all, color.

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