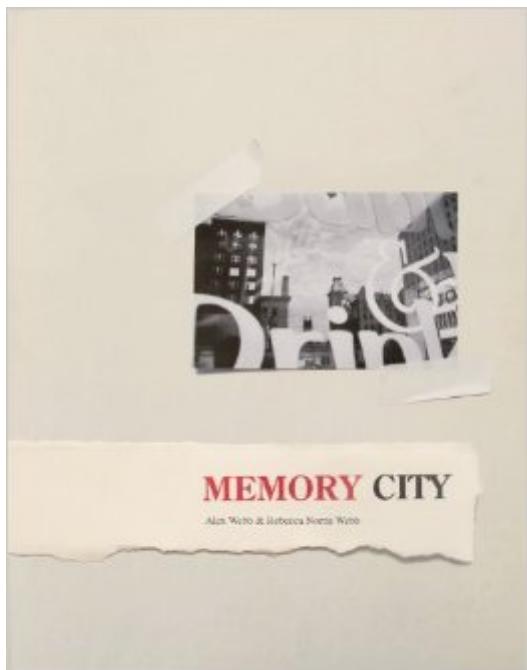


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# Alex Webb & Rebecca Norris Webb: Memory City



## Synopsis

Located in Rochester, New York, Eastman Kodak was one of the world's leading manufacturers of photographic film for 125 years. Following the company's declaration of bankruptcy in 2012, photographers Alex Webb (born 1952) and Rebecca Norris Webb (born 1956) traveled to Rochester to capture images of the city during the twilight of Kodak's existence. *Memory City* responds to the uncertain future of Kodak film as a medium by presenting a view of Rochester that reflects the city's prosperous past and current troubles. Usually known for his color work, for this project Alex Webb used his final rolls of Kodachrome--a color film now only able to be processed in black and white--to capture Rochester's fading grandeur. He also photographed the city's streets in digital color. Rebecca's photographs consist of color portraits and still-lifes of Rochester's women, both young and old, taken using Portra--one of Kodak's last films. For this publication, the artists have also created a timeline of Rochester's cultural history, tracing the evolution of the complex, once-vibrant city. This book also contains quotations from many of the famous writers and thinkers who have been connected to Rochester and its environs, including women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony, abolitionist Frederick Douglass, and poets John Ashbery and Ilya Kaminsky.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 172 pages

Publisher: Radius Books; Pck Har/Pa edition (June 30, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1934435767

ISBN-13: 978-1934435762

Product Dimensions: 10.2 x 0.9 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #48,392 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Cities #17 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Monographs #18 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Criticism & Essays

## Customer Reviews

This is an amazing--and serendipitous--book. Why? First, the topic of the book--possibly the last days of film (as we now it from Kodak, anyway)--mirrors possibly the last days of an American

industrial city. Next, the photography is generally gripping, in that one can't even flip through the book and not get a deep feeling for this place--and for film photography. What makes the photography here so effective is the complementary competence of two photographers--each with a unique and individual style. Together, it works really well. Then, the book itself is quite a production. More than bound pages here. There are pullouts and foldouts and notes and more. It is simply a gorgeously successfully designed book, one that feels good to hold and to read. Add to this the inserts that, for me, allow a reader to share with the Webbs a real experience and emotion about this town--and about film. Almost like you are sitting chatting with the Webbs as they show you what they found. You cannot read this book and not get a wonderful sense of Rochester, of film photography, and of the Webbs. I was not anticipating discovering so many wonderful things....a pleasant place to wander!

Having run across the exhibition for the work covered in this book at a Boston gallery, and browsed through the book, it became a must-have item for me thanks to the huge love and devotion put into its unique presentation of separate folders, large pull out pages and fabulous images that will improve the eye and goals of any photographer.

One of the best of 2014, hands down. Whether you're into the art of photography, photography books, American history, photographic history, the work of Alex Webb or Rebecca Norris-Webb--or, especially, all of the above--this dense, beautiful publication is worthy of your attention.

I don't know about you folks but I'd rather see a poignant image smaller and as a whole than warped, stretched across two pages. And wouldn't that have been more apropos of the subject matter? Disappointed with both the thematic indiscretion and overall quality of what was listed as a sixty dollar volume. Happy to not have paid full price.

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