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Photography Changes Everything



Synopsis

Photography Changes Everything offers a provocative rethinking of photography's impact on our culture and our daily lives. Compiling hundreds of images and responses from leading authorities on photography, it offers a brilliant, reader-friendly exploration of the many ways in which photographs package information and values, demand and hold attention, and shape our knowledge of and experience in the world. The volume draws on the extraordinary visual assets of the Smithsonian Institution's museums, science centers and archives to launch an unprecedented interdisciplinary dialogue on photography's capacity to shape and change our experience of the world. Photography Changes Everything features over 300 images and nearly 100 engaging short texts commissioned from experts, writers, inventors, public figures and others—from Hugh Hefner to John Baldessari, John Waters, Robert Adams, Sandra Phillips and many others. Each story responds to images selected by project contributors. Together they engage readers in a timely exploration of the extent to which our lives have been transformed through our interactions with photographic imagery. Edited by leading photography curator and author Marvin Heiferman, Photography Changes Everything provides a unique opportunity to better understand the history, practice and power of photography at this transitional moment in visual culture.

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Customer Reviews

As an instructor of documentary photography, I found this book to be easy to read with a great wealth of information. As we move through this next century, we do need to examine what it means

to read a photograph, to understand how photographs change the way we behave, look at the world, and most importantly, treat other human beings. Hurray for Aperture and the Smithsonian- two of my favorite publishers - for coming together and making such an important contribution with various writers, teachers, thinkers, and photographers all sharing with us how photography makes a difference. I am currently using this as a textbook for my class, and it is an excellent way to begin conversations, promote deeper thinking, and be awed by the far reaches of how imagery shapes our lives.

If you like photography, and you want to go farther than just merely looking at beautiful photographs, you should acquire this book. If you are a teacher, a student, or just a person with little or a lot of curiosity about photography, you should acquire this book. If you want to know better what makes a photo work and want to know the importance of photography, specially in these days, you should acquire this book. I have read a lot of books about photography, and this one, no doubt, goes in the top five. Don't expect to receive a classical photo book with outstanding paper quality. But do expect to receive a book to be read, to be analyzed, and from which you, either amateur or professional, will learn a lot. And this book will change (and complete) your knowledge about the importance and the beauty of photography and the visual arts. This is the kind of book which really makes you think.

I was not sure what I was going to get out of this book but I am really enjoying reading it. I am not done with it yet but like it so much I simply had to get the word out and present my five star recommendation. Photography is so accessible now with digital cameras and cameras being included in cell phones, toys, and many other devices at an amazing rate. This book really captures these changes over time and provides the reader with a wealth of information to help witness this rapid change. This book has really expanded my knowledge on a subject that I already consider myself an expert in. If photography is a passion of yours this book should be in your printed collection.

I had to use this as a textbook for my History of Photography (Art History) class. It is compiled of various author's short reports on different subjects. As an art historian, it is a very interesting read, and a book that I plan on keeping rather than selling. I really enjoy it.

One of the most original and useful books on photography I have encountered since I started

working on photograph interpretation in 1998. It explains how photographs have changed our view on matters through photography specifically and in a huge variety of areas. I came across it by accident, like one often does, when doing a Coursera course just to brush up my skills. I think I've failed the course but I've discovered this book.

This is one of the best books on photography you'll ever read. Really an amazing collection of essays on photography's place in visual culture. If you have any interest at all in photography (and if you're a human you should), you owe it to yourself to buy it.

This well edited selection surprises. One would expect lengthy explanations about art and photography. Yet none of this. The practical and the artsy, the documentary, the historical and the mundane. How photography changed much in our life, in science, in discovery in learning is very well covered here and has many corners and twists that surprises even "the well informed". The only criticism I'd have is the stale print quality of the photos and, much more, that the texts mention prominently some photos but then they are not shown. But these are minor downsides of a great collection that is also a very easy and entertaining read apart from being highly informative. I was most impressed by Jeremy Wolfe's convincing essay of how powerful our photographic memory is and I really loved the text of the youngest contributor, Tien Nguyen, for its blunt and beautiful honesty and introspective

This book, says what so many have refused to say in the past. It acknowledges, photography's diverse uses, historically, culturally and in a contemporary sense. This book does not attempt to be an all encompassing philosophical tome about photography's purpose and uses. It simply and eloquently shares and shows how photography impacts on our lives. A must read to get a more profound handle on how photography can change things.

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