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Todd Hido On Landscapes, Interiors, And The Nude: The Photography Workshop Series



Synopsis

In The Photography Workshop Series, Aperture Foundation works with the world's top photographers to distill their creative approaches, teachings and insights on photography, offering the workshop experience in a book. Its goal is to inspire photographers of all levels who wish to improve their work, as well as readers interested in deepening their understanding of the art of photography. Each book features the creative process and core thinking of a photographer told in their own words and through pictures of their choosing, and is introduced by a well-known student of the featured photographer. In this book, Todd Hido explores the genres of landscape, interior and nude photography, with emphasis on creating images from a personal perspective and with a sense of intimacy. Through words and photographs, he also offers insight into his own practice and discusses a wide range of creative issues, including mining one's own memory and experience as inspiration; using light, texture and detail for greater impact; exploring the narrative potential activated when sequencing images; and creating powerful stories with emotional weight and beauty.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've heard reviewers who were rather disappointed by this book because of its alleged lack of substance. It's true that the text in this book could be condensed into a mere 20 pages. But what's the point in complaining about that when the material presented is really illuminating, when those reflections, despite their brevity, really get to the heart of the matter? I have just returned from a

week-long photo workshop with Anders Petersen, doyen of European street photography. I condensed my learnings into a typescript of five generously spaced pages. And that's plenty enough for me. I am certain that those pearls of wisdom will fuel my photographic quest for years to come. So I don't mind Hido's terseness. To the contrary I welcome it. It saves me time, increases the portability of his insights and makes it easier to look things up. Hido is rather deadpan about the mechanics of artistic creation. A body of work is an accumulation of many mundane decisions. "You're always in a state of deciding. Each question you encounter can lead you down a particular path. The real question is: What's right for you right now?" This may sound almost like a platitude but that doesn't mean it is less true. Art has a true spiritual significance but it germinates in the microfolds of our daily existence. Being observant to the potential of these moments requires a ruthless commitment in response to a deeply felt passion. There is much more to learn in this book. One of the key elements that determine a photographer's 'Einstellung' is the distance (s)he wants to work from. Petersen, for example, knows that he wants to be really close to things. Raymond Depardon, on the other hand, keeps a great distance between himself and his subject. Hido has been exploring 'an intimate distance'.

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