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Steve McCurry: The Iconic Photographs: Standard Edition



Synopsis

This collection brings together some of the most beautiful of Steve McCurry's photographs from around the world, including iconic images from Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe. New edition of a previously limited edition work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'll try not to repeat what other reviewers have said or what the product is described as by the manufacturer. Regarding the version I received from : the cover sheath that the book comes in is black unlike the pink one in the photograph. The book is bound in blue silk (like the product photo). The signed print is well placed inside the front cover of the book. The reproduction is superb and the paper is exceptionally thick. The publisher, Phaidon, could have done a better job in packing the product in a larger shipping box, but mine arrived with no real damage to speak of. It's a marvelous collection of McCurry's career thus far. The prints are so big at times you feel as if you are right behind the camera taking the photo with McCurry. Most photo books don't give you that sensation as the prints are often less than half the size of the ones found here. It's not as big as Helmet Newton's "SUMO" (full size version) or other offerings from Tachen like "GOAT", but in some ways it's better because it's big but not too big. Unlike some other massive photo books, you can sit down in a chair and leaf through it or lay it on a table or even the floor, which ever suits you best. The fact that only 3300 of these books have been made and that it is signed by McCurry make it an obvious collectors item. It's worth it.

To be perfectly honest, I ordered this book as soon as it was announced, then waited months while it was being made. In that time I developed a thought that it requires some serious nerve for any photographer to publish a book titled "the Iconic Photographs" while still alive. When the book arrived I was somewhat consumed with the idea of how can anyone possible declare his own images to be iconic. Well, I stand corrected, Steve McCurry have delivered a fantastic collection of images, well worthy of the Iconic Photographs label. The book is filled with images reflecting on images rather than religious obsession with technical data, and I am impressed to see Steve have included images where focus or exposure may not be "technically entirely accurate" however the images, the moment and the composition simply are so strong and magnificent that discussing technical data is meaningless. On a related note, the book show images captured with everything from film to high-end 24+megapix cameras, and a historical progression clearly showing the fingerprints of some of the earlier digital slr cameras, but through this Steve McCurry carries the same tone and look. To me this is a iconic book for the reason that it is about images, magnificent images. For a moment forget the price of this book, and simply enjoy the sheer magnificence of a huge book of photography. Each page another outstanding moment captured and printed. I am completely delighted with this book. and yes, Steve you are forgiven for declaring your work iconic. it IS.!

This is a review of the 'Limited Signed Edition' of 'Steve McCurry: The Iconic Photographs'...and what an iconic collection it is! From the now-legendary 1984 photo of the green-eyed Afghan girl to lesser-known McCurry photos, this incredible tome encompasses the absolute bestwork of the famed National Geographic photographer. ...So why didn't I give the 'Limited Signed Edition' 5 stars? Well, a couple of things- first, a good number of the photos are spread over two pages, so you end up with a crease right down the middle of some great pictures- rather the publisher would have confined these photos to one page, or made them fold-outs (Which would have made the book more costly, I'm sure). Second (and this might just bother purists, or collectors of signed first editions like myself), Mr. McCurry hasn't actually signed the book itself- rather, his signature is on an approx. 8x19 1/2 yellow page at the front of the book that also lists the Limited Edition number and information about the enclosed signed print. I would assume that the photographer signed these 'yellow pages' at an earlier date, then sent them to the publisher for enclosure in the book when it was bound. (But then I'm not a publisher and not totally sure how these things are done.) This could affect the future value of the book. That being said, the beautiful, enclosed signed print might just

prove to be valuable in itself...it certainly is from an artistic point of view! But, hey, don't let my nitpicking stop you...if you're a fan of Steve McCurry's work, you really should check out this book. Overall, it's pretty amazing, and the photos are beautifully presented on high-quality paper...ensuring you'll be able to enjoy this wonderful collection for many years to come.

I don't think the other reviewers actually emphasized on the size of this book. It is huge. As a coffee table book, it will cover your entire coffee table. Which is not a bad thing when it is filled with McCurry's great photos. Don't plan on reading this in bed or leafing through with it on your lap. Caveat: There are no new photos in this book, just the same old ones found in other tomes, except in a larger format. If you like McCurry's photos, then you will likely find this worthy to have in your collection. The discounted price from Amazon makes this less expensive than some photo books nowhere close to its size and there's an actual original glossy print that comes with each book! How much is that worth? The photos in this book cover the entire page and sometimes, spread over 2 pages. That's my only real gripe, I do not like it when a photo spans 2 pages and have the binding run through/over the beautiful image. But this is not the first, neither would it be the last, photo book to do that. All in all, I'm glad I got a copy and I'd highly recommend it to anyone who likes McCurry or for that matter, photography.

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