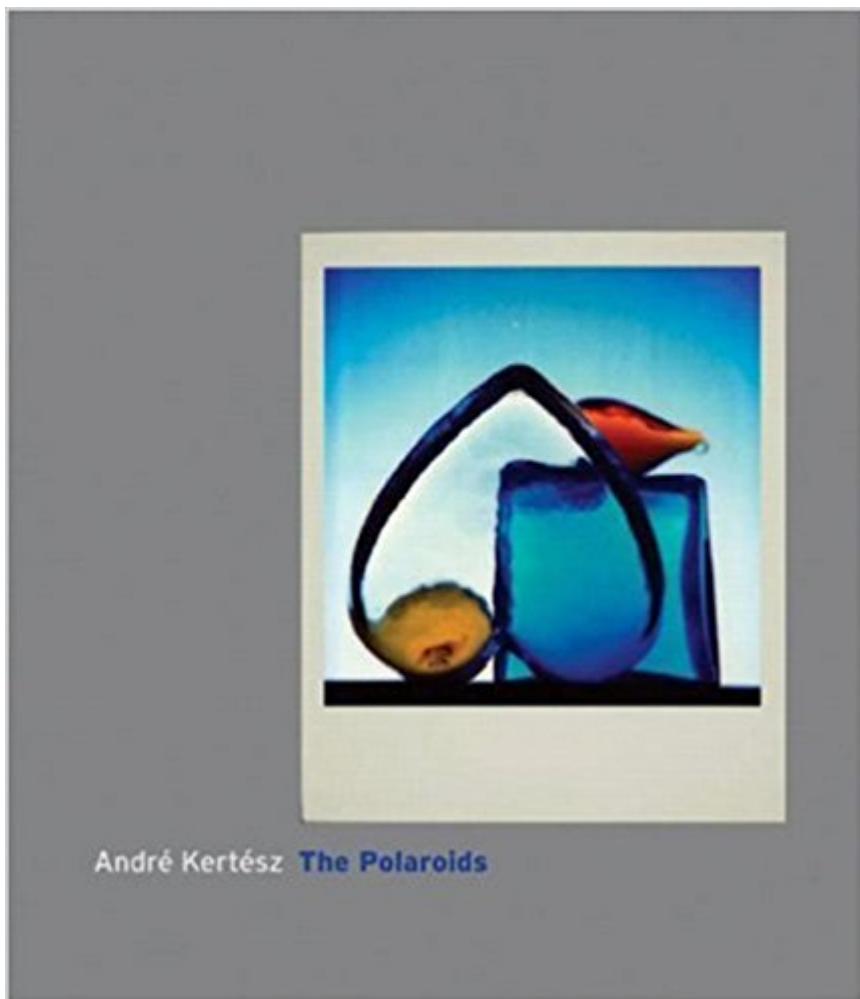


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Andre Kertesz: The Polaroids



Synopsis

A powerful collection of the luminous last work by one of the true giants of twentieth-century photography. After the death of his wife, AndrÃ© KertÃ©sz consoled himself by taking up a new camera, the Polaroid SX70. As with earlier equipment, he mastered the camera and produced a provocative body of work that both honored his wife and lifted him out of depression. Here KertÃ©sz dips into his reserves one last time, tapping new people, ideas, and tools to generate a whole new body of work through which he transforms from a broken man into a youthful artist. Taken in his apartment just north of New York Cityâ€”Washington Square, many of these photographs were shot either from his window or in the windowsill. We see a fertile mind at work, combining personal objects into striking still lifes set against cityscape backgrounds, reflected and transformed in glass surfaces. Almost entirely unpublished work, these photographs are a testament to the genius of the photographerâ€”eye as manifested in the simple Polaroid. Duotone photographs throughout

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

AndrÃ© KertÃ©sz (1894-1985) was one of the most inventive, influential, and prolific photographers in the medium's history. Robert Gurbo is the curator of the AndrÃ© KertÃ©sz Estate and the author of AndrÃ© KertÃ©sz: The Early Years and AndrÃ© KertÃ©sz: The Polaroids. He lives in New York City.

Andrei Kertesz is one of the 20th century's Masters of Photography and this book contains a delightful collection of work done near the end of his long life. His use of the Polaroid demonstrates the power of his artistic vision. What, at the time was considered a snapshot camera, is utilized by Andre to create a master set of fine art prints, all from the confines of his apartment. this book should be in the collection of anyone that appreciates Photography as an art form.

Very nicely done, quality printed, book. The story behind the photos is interesting, photos are great.

Amazing story and images. An icon of photography who returned to his love of the 'art' of photography and created what might be his greatest work..

The binding of the book is too tight for me to appreciate Kertesz polaroids

AndrÃ© KertÃ©sz (1894 - 1985) captured his first photograph while working as a clerk at the Budapest stock exchange in 1912. A member of the Austro-Hungarian Army during WWI, KertÃ©sz photographed his experiences of the war until he was wounded in battle in 1915. Unfortunately, many of the images he captured during this time were lost during the Hungarian Revolution of 1918. Thereafter, this preternaturally gifted poetic soul traveled to Paris (in 1925), where he worked as a freelance photographer and published three books of his images; and on to New York (in 1936), where one of the 20th Century's most gifted photographers was effectively cold-shouldered by the photographic "establishment" and relegated to taking pictures of architecture and home interiors for House and Garden. In what must be one of the most egregious oversights in photographic history, not a single one of his images was selected for Steichen's famous The Family of Man exhibition in 1956! It was only after KertÃ©sz retired from commercial work (in 1962) that he was again able to devote his considerable powers of observation and feeling to the same "simple" everyday subjects of his "amateurish" youth. KertÃ©sz left behind a legacy of beautiful, meloncholic tonal poems for all future generations of aspiring photographers to marvel at; and to marvel at the breadth and depth of his feeling for the human condition. As the short publisher's note above describes, Kertesz was despondent after his wife's death. But his beautiful soul awakened anew after Graham Nash (member of the folk-rock band Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young) gave him a Polaroid SX-70 camera. Kertesz trained his poetic eye mostly on things in his apartment (and a special little abstract acrylic sculpture whose form reminded him of his departed wife); but, oh the wonders his delicate imagery reveals about himself and his world. And through his wondrous art, we

see a little more of the world we think we know, but experience mostly at a distance, without the magic that only a poet with a camera can reveal. Where a photographer like Minor White (whom I hold in great esteem) deliberately used essentially unrecognizable abstract forms to communicate inner states, Kertész instead used immediately recognizable shapes and symbols to convey the nature - and feeling - of his connection (or, more often than not, dis-connection) to the world around him. The fragile interconnected bond between artist and humanity was the real "subject" of Kertész's poetic gaze; and we can all feel it, as we look upon the shapes and tones of his otherwise "ordinary" subjects. His work is less about the traditional subjects of photographs (people, places and things), and more - much more - about his feelings about his relationships with the traditional subjects that came within view of this gentle artistic soul. This is a beautiful little book that anyone who is interested in fine-art photography (in the truest sense of the word) would undoubtedly treasure. "The moment always dictates in my work. What I feel, I do. This is the most important thing for me. Everybody can look, but they don't necessarily see. I never calculate or consider; I see a situation and I know that it's right, even if I have to go back to "get the proper lighting." - André Kertész.

Kertesz was a brilliant photographer and this book is more evidence of his abilities. The photographs are taken with a polaroid camera. And they are amazing! Who knew you could convey such emotion with a polaroid and get it to do such amazing things with light and color. Some photos are polaroids of subjects he shot with his other cameras and you can see in other works. But the study of the statues are truly beautiful. If you collect Kertesz - this is a must buy.

Published in conjunction with gallery shows across the U.S. is ANDRE KERTESZ: THE POLAROIDS, which considers the photographer's final works - some 80 colored Polaroid's capturing his unique use of light. Kertesz pioneered photojournalistic techniques: his inspirations produced a revolutionary body of work and their representation here makes this a fine pick for any library strong in photographer history.

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