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Susan Burnstine: Within Shadows



Synopsis

Susan Burnstine began photographing with homemade cameras made of vintage camera parts, attempting to evoke those fleeting moments of consciousness between dreaming and waking. The landscapes in these lush black-and-white photos are vast and haunted, the human figures diminutive and solitary.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Once upon a time there was a girl who lived in a treehouse in a canyon... she was enraptured by her dreams, but disturbed by their fleeting, ethereal nature... she wanted to hold them, make them manifest... to this end she became a tinkerer, an inventor, a builder... from bits and pieces and scraps and parts she made her own machines, strange steampunk contraptions, capable of capturing her dreams and making them discernible in the light of day, for herself (and everyone else) to examine... Does this sound like a story pitch for a fantasy film...? Think again - with her new book, Susan Burnstine has followed the course laid out above... and she has given us her dreams, held fast through ink on paper, each one now sent out into the world to take on a life of its own, outside of her soul and psyche....

It's about time that Susan Burnstine's evocative and otherworldy images, created by her own handmade cameras, come together as a monograph. The book is a compilation of a decade of work, combining a variety of projects and resulting in a sublime journey through our dreams and

subconscious. Her compelling and mysterious story telling lead the viewer into the recesses of our memories, where the familiar meets the ethereal, as if her camera allows her to pass through to another plane of seeing. This is a special book, not only for the photography lover, but also for those who are interested in exploring the psychological and hallucinatory quality of images that challenge our imagination. Complimenting the photographs are essays by George Slade and Susan Spiritus and an interview by Russell Joslin, editor of SHOTS Magazine.

Discovering Susan Burnstine's **WITHIN SHADOWS** has been the highlight of my art book experience over the past year; and possibly over the past decade. Barely a day goes by that I don't make the conscious (or unconscious) choice to open it and spend some time in its world. Whether one is a lover of great photography or not (and make no mistake this is great photography), Burnstine's exquisite, thought-provoking dream-images will haunt, inspire, and draw the viewer into their world, starting her or him on a journey that will continue long after the book is closed. To pick a favorite photograph (or even two) would be impossible, but the images I find myself thinking about as I write this include: Bridge to Nowhere, In Passage, Yearn and ...When? The monograph is beautifully put together. The essays are interesting and insightful and, unlike many art books, they truly illuminate, rather than get in the way of, the photography. **WITHIN SHADOWS** is a work to cherish and to share, and has quickly become my go-to gift book.

Susan Burnstine's unique vision and exceptional ingenuity is abundantly displayed through out this wonderful collection. Her use of homemade cameras and creative development techniques has resulted in a great black and white analogue experience that will leave creative photography fans elated and inspired.

Within Shadows is what all great art should be: showing us something we've never seen before; showing us something we didn't know we needed to see. This book is blind to the false note, where every photograph pulses truth, and every page penetrates, deeper and deeper. JH

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