



William Eggleston: The Democratic Forest

Eudora Welty (Photographs) , Mark Holborn (Editor) , William Eggleston (Photographer)

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Following the publication of *Chromes* in 2011 and *Los Alamos Revisited* in 2012, Steidl's reassessment of Eggleston's career continues with the publication of *The Democratic Forest*, his most ambitious project. This ten-volume set containing more than 1,000 photographs is drawn from a body of 12,000 pictures made by Eggleston in the 1980s. Following an opening volume of work in Louisiana, the ensuing volumes cover Eggleston's travels from his familiar ground in Memphis and Tennessee out to Dallas, Pittsburgh, Miami and Boston, the pastures of Kentucky and as far as the Berlin Wall. The final volume leads the viewer back to the South of small towns, cotton fields, the Civil War battlefield of Shiloh and the home of Andrew Jackson in Tennessee.

The -democratic- in Eggleston's title refers to a democracy of vision, through which the most mundane subjects are represented with the same complexity and significance as the most elevated. This work has rarely been shown and only a fraction of the entire oeuvre has ever been published; the exhaustive editing process has taken over three years. This gorgeous set includes a new introduction by Mark Holborn and the republication of Eudora Welty's original essay on the work.

William Eggleston was born in 1937 in Memphis, Tennessee. He took his first black-and-white photographs at age 18. His first color work was shot in 1964 in color negative film, but in the late 60s he began to use color slides. Eggleston was the subject of a landmark solo exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1976.

William Eggleston: The Democratic Forest Details

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From Reader Review William Eggleston: The Democratic Forest for online ebook

Davy says

It took me about five months to find my way out of The Democratic Forest, but being lost in it was wonderful. To my mind, this is Eggleston's masterpiece, a catalog of his best years behind the camera -- and one of the crowning achievements in the history of photography. The artistic unity and the grace and the humor in these images -- taken all around the world, but always calling back to The South -- is an epic wonder to behold. And we are lucky to finally have a publication that lives up to the work. These books are among the most beautiful I've seen and the colors are so rich the photographs seem to come alive when the light hits them. None of my local libraries had this set on the shelf, so I was forced to request the 10 volumes individually through interlibrary loan -- a slow and sometimes frustrating process. It was worth every effort and then some.

Karen says

The Democratic Forest by William Eggleston, \$604.00 | Steidl's reassessment of Eggleston's career continues with the publication of The Democratic Forest, his most ambitious project. This ten-volume set containing more than 1,000 photographs is drawn from a body of 12,000 pictures made by Eggleston in the 1980s.

Bookforum Magazine says

"In their very ordinariness the images startle us--as if we have suddenly seen the pattern from our childhood-bedroom wallpaper.

Eggleston's photographs move from junkyards to mansions, presenting them all in the same deadpan tone. Inequality is not their subject, but the everyday presence of its trauma is their texture: It's hard to see a cotton field and not think of slavery.

His genius in The Democratic Forest is to create images that are uniquely his and yet exist on their own as unparseable sentences: these scenes of nothing, full in and of and despite themselves."

--Prudence Peiffer on William Eggleston's The Democratic Forest in the February/March 2016 issue of Bookforum

To read the rest of this review, go to Bookforum:

http://www.bookforum.com/inprint/022_05
