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# Joel Sternfeld: American Prospects



## Synopsis

First published in 1987, Joel Sternfeld's *American Prospects* is the classic photo record of 1980s America. This definitive edition, made with new plates and including one additional photograph, offers a spectacular, funny, sad and soberly riveting portrait of America's diverse possibilities and prospects in the Reagan era. From the famous "Wet n' Wild Aquatic Theme Park" in Florida to "The Space Shuttle Columbia Lands at Kelly Air Force Base" in San Antonio, Texas; from melancholy images of beached whales in Oregon to beautiful views of Yellowstone National Park and Bear Lake in Utah; from post-tornado Nebraska to a previously unseen photograph from the series, "Bikini Contest, Fort Lauderdale, FL, March 1983"; the sublime contradictions and tragicomedy of this volume are without doubt one of the greatest accomplishments of color photography, all the more fully realized in this splendid new edition. An essay by Kerry Brougher, Chief Curator at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, considers the historical context of Sternfeld's book and the pivotal role that *American Prospects* has played in the evolution of contemporary filmmaking and art photography. A major exponent of color photography in America, Joel Sternfeld was born in New York City in 1944. He has received numerous awards including two Guggenheim fellowships, a Prix de Rome and the Citibank Photography Award. Sternfeld's other books include *On This Site* (1997), *Hart Island* (1998), *Stranger Passing* (2001), *Walking the High Line* (2002), *Sweet Earth* (2006), *When It Changed* (2007), *Oxbow Archive* (2008) and *First Pictures* (2011).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

thank you so much for reprinting this! I wanted this book when first got interested in photography, but the prices for the out-of-print classic were too high.i love love LOVE this book.enough has been written about these images, the artist, the process, the subject, etc... so that leaves me with my experience. i will just say that my appreciation of this work has developed in concert with the depth of my understanding of visual art. there are other photographers who are more exquisite and others who are more lovely/human, but this work is the closest thing to perfection i know.this is my desert island photography book

Beautifully printed book of some excellent photography. First time I have seen "decisive moment" photography done with a large format film camera.

Gorgeous everything in this book. The detail of what looks like large format, the color, and the distinct look of the period (80s, I believe) seals it.

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