Photography At MoMA: 1960 To Now

The book was found
The Museum of Modern Art has one of the greatest collections of 20th-century photography in the world. As one of three volumes dedicated to a new history of photography published by the Museum, this publication comprises a comprehensive catalogue of the collection post-1960s and brings much-needed new critical perspective to the most prominent artists working with the photographic medium of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. At a moment when photography is undergoing fast-paced changes and artists are seeking to redefine its boundaries in new and exciting ways, Photography at MoMA serves as an excellent resource for understanding the expanded field of contemporary photography today. The book begins with an in-depth introduction followed by eight chapters of full-color plates, each introduced by a short essay. Over 250 artists are featured, including Diane Arbus, John Baldessari, Jan Dibbets, Rineke Dijkstra, William Eggleston, Lee Friedlander, Louise Lawler, Zoe Leonard, Helen Levitt, Sigmar Polke, Cindy Sherman, Wolfgang Tillmans, Jeff Wall, Carrie Mae Weems, Hannah Wilke and Garry Winogrand, among many others.

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The 330 photos, from 250 photographers, in the book provide a stimulating look at how this art form has progressed over the last few decades. The eight chapters each start with a four page essay looking at a particular aspect of photography, it could be the body, documentary, performance or experimental then followed by examples from artists who specialize in their genre. I thought the
range of material revealed in these images quite extraordinary and very wide ranging. Chapter eight covering experimental work has pictures made from film that might not have even been inside a camera: Marco Breuer’s ‘Pan’ (2003) is scratched chromogenic paper; Bruce Conner creates cameraless portraits. With so many photographers included this is an excellent way to discover somebody new to me and compare their work with others in the same style though the work of truly big names is included with their most well produced images like Eggleston’s 1973 red motel ceiling or Shore’s 1975 ‘Beverly Boulevard and La Brea Avenue’. The MoMA collection is obviously strong on American born artists but the rest of the world, especially Europe and Japan, are included. This is the first book of a three volume set, the second considers work from 1914 and the third surveys the origins of the medium. If the other two are as good as this title it will be a remarkable set. I think it’s worth commenting on the book’s production, it can’t be faulted. Excellent typography, paper (150 gsm Creator Silk) and printing with a very fine screen (possibly 300) by Brizzoli, Madrid. If only all photobooks looked this good.

Excellent Book!

really awesome pictures.

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