



The Portfolios of Ansel Adams

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A classic collection of the acclaimed photographer's limited edition portfolios, now available in a gorgeous trade paperback edition.

The Portfolios of Ansel Adams Details

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From Reader Review The Portfolios of Ansel Adams for online ebook

Mike (the Paladin) says

My copy of this book was purchased back around 1977 when it first appeared. It has a different cover...

I bought this (years ago) for my wife, but as Adams work is art in black and white (and that fact is very important, there are some amazing photos here where the black and white shows the photo to great effect) she, being an artist and loving color (and she did love color) wasn't as taken with it. So it became mine. It's a wonderful book in general and if you like photography or are a photographer yourself I imagine it would be even better!

Bob Nichols says

Got this collection of Adams photos at a book sale, for cheap. Have seen many Adams photos over the years, with somewhat lame feelings (a few of them were "nice"). Went through these seven portfolios slowly, and to be honest, many of the pictures just don't grab me. But there are more than a few that make you say "wow": McKinley and the saguaro (portfolio I); Canyon de Chelly portfolio II); the dunes, Cathedral Peak, coastal redwoods, Siesta Lake, the single tree trunk at Tuolumne Meadows (portfolio IV); the Mudhills, Lone Pine Peak, and (in particular) the White Stump (portfolio V); Aspens and (in particular) cemetery statue and oil derricks (portfolio VII).

The photos for the most part have single, clean objects of focus that makes the picture jump out. The background is soft. The John Szarkeowski introduction says that's one way to look at the Adams photos, but it is not really what Adams was about (these are "the nominal parts of his pictures"). Adams was, rather, "about the light that they modulate, the light that justifies their relationship to each other."

A few reflections about Adams (or from Adams) that appear in the brief narratives that accompany this collection of photos:

From the introduction: "we are primarily thankful to Adams because the best of his pictures stir our memory of what it was like to be alone in an untouched world." And, "For the photographer, large issues must be inferred from trivial data. One family picnic on the banks of the Marne, clearly seen, may stand for civilization; one unfolding fern, for freedom."

Adams (portfolio IV): "the luminous insistence of growing things."

Newhall intro to portfolio V: "Ansel Adams says there are only shapes — 'configurations in chaos' — until the artist gives them form....What is Adams trying to say to us? He says he can't verbalize about what only photographs can say."

Newhall intro to portfolio VI: "Adams thinks he has been typed as 'nature boy' too long and too unfairly...."

Clare Bear says

I discovered Ansel Adams via an excellent long doco on Austar about his childhood, his love of playing piano and listening to music, his love of the wildereness he captured so beautifully in film and his "unorthodox" (for the time) upbringing. Not so unorthodox really..his father just encouraged his pursuits, allowed him to roam, and teased out his imagination. I look at each plate and I cannot pick a favourite. As you may know, they are all in his signature black and white, but man, this guy captured tones of both that you can only marvel at. He lugged his heavy camera equipment up into very rugged mountain country in the States, plates and emulsions and chemicals too, and it was on one such mountain, one plate left, that he discovered the Red A filter. And thanks to that, we see the mountains and landscape as part of an ethereal, otherworldly cosmos.

His paintings to me are like listening to the incomparable Rachmaninov's music.

Rachelle Sperling says

I love Ansel Adams photography. He photographs demonstrate his eye for beauty and his creative use of light. And beyond that the subject matter is breathtaking!

Hannah Galli says

It's Ansel Adams, of course it's incredible. Any house that claims to have any class at all should have the hardback version of this beautiful tribute to an incredible man in their possession, where it can be easily seen and thumbed through.

Amlan Roy says

so much enthusiasm for wilderness and nature. It seems that he traveled to so many remote places. This is the real passion for photography.

Quiver says

A beautifully rendered collection of black-and-white landscapes and close-ups of Ansel Adams. Worth taking the time to peruse once, then worth keeping handy to ponder and meditate on occasionally.

Dee Renee Chesnut says

His art is always an inspiration.

HBalikov says

A master of B&W, the photos are of excellent quality. They serve to show Adams' artistry and inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

A fine collection of an iconic photographer.

Deigh says

What's not to love. I found some new to me images in this book and that was a nice treat. We tend to think of the grand landscapes that Adams did but there are some portraits and some very intimate still life images in this collection. As I read the comments and interpretations by the author I could not help but wonder what Adams himself would have written about each image if he had a blog in his day.

Julia Chapman says

Beautiful works from one of my favorite photographers!

latner3 says

"When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence."
