

BEST PHOTO BOOKS OF THE YEAR

What makes a photo book great? “It has to embody originality and, ultimately, be a thing of beauty, a work of art,” wrote rare-book dealer Andrew Roth in his seminal collection, *The Book of 101 Books*, more than a decade ago. We concur. The following 54 books meet that test. These volumes also reflect current trends in photography—the evolution of the snapshot aesthetic, the manipulation of images, the storyteller’s art, the ubiquity of social media—which have emerged in the bound book without diminishing it. The photograph and the printing press were made for each other:





OLYMPIC FAVELA

by Marc Ohrem-Leclef | APERTURE | \$80
 To prep for the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games, officials in Brazil ordered the destruction of large swaths of Rio de Janeiro's favelas, which more than a million people call home. This book documents the displaced residents and their defiance, symbolized in emergency flames raised like anti-Olympic torches (above).

THE SOCHI PROJECT

by Rob Hornstra | APERTURE | \$80
 Over five years, photographer Hornstra and writer Arnold van Bruggen traced the construction of the Olympic Village for the Winter Games in Sochi, Russia—a subtropical beach town—and the environmental havoc it wreaked.

U.S. MARSHALS

by Brian Finke | POWERHOUSE | \$35
 Spurred by a childhood friend's new vocation, Finke brings his crisp visual style to the world of federal law-enforcement officers throughout the U.S., capturing them in both crime-busting action and quieter, revealing portraits.

ETHIOPIAN HIGHLANDS

by Liza Manola | ASSOULINE | \$250
 In intensely colorful imagery, Manola reveals glimpses of Ethiopian society and landscape scenes that have remained unchanged for millennia, what she calls "their harsh reality, their dignity, and the moving communion of their souls."

EVENTS ASHORE

by An-My Lê | FUNDACIÓN MAPFRE | \$90
 An-My Lê depicts U.S. servicemen and women in training operations throughout the globe, from Antarctica to Ghana to Indonesia. Backdropped by scenery that's by turns gorgeous and inhospitable, her intimate portraits lend a sense of warmth to an otherwise harsh world.

GARRY WINOGRAND

text by Sarah Greenough et al | METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART | \$85
 Winogrand's contact sheets suggest his street photography was a scattershot art, with frames quickly snapped and gems found in the rough. But this tome—like the wildly popular traveling show it accompanies—proves that those gems are many, evidence of Winogrand's gift for making seemingly mundane moments into visual poetry.

MALFORMED: FORGOTTEN BRAINS OF THE TEXAS STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL

by Adam Voorhes | POWERHOUSE | \$40
 A purveyor of scientific phenomena, Voorhes offers the year's strangest book: a survey of damaged and/or diseased brains preserved in jars stored away at the University of Texas. Artfully shot, it's as morbidly engrossing as a highway wreck and, thanks to Alex Hannaford's text, psychologically fascinating as well.

THE SEVENTH DOG

by Danny Lyon | PHAIDON | \$125
 The title refers to the number of dogs Lyon has companioned—this book sums up his 72 years, beginning with recent images and working backwards. It's a marvelous mess of snapshots, formal photos, diaristic montages, and ephemeral evocations of Lyon's long, strange trip.

TESTAMENT

by Chris Hondros | POWERHOUSE | \$45
 Before his death in 2011 in Libya at age 41, Hondros was a daring and prolific war photo journalist, but what shines through here is his humanity: He portrays glimpses of heroism amid chaos (as in the Liberian scene below) and hope among ruins, with a storyteller's gift for yarn.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S PARADISE: TURBULENT AMERICA 1960–1990

by Jean-Pierre Laffont | GLITTERATI | \$95
 Starting in 1964, French expatriate Laffont dogged the big stories that came to define modern America—from anti-war and anti-establishment chaos to the battles over gay rights, immigration reform, and other social issues that still vex the nation. In images more about the streets than politics, he fearlessly shot with an outsider's fascination, making this hand some volume a highly personal testament to our country's difficult growth. —RUSSELL HART



TRADING TO EXTINCTION

by Patrick Brown | DEWE LEWIS | \$58
 For more than a decade, Brown and reporter Ben Davies have traced the illegal wildlife trade in Asia. They've been from the hunting grounds of poachers to the backstreets, where endangered species are traded like drugs to fuel a black market for rhino horn, tiger bone, and other black-magic hokey. With surprising access, they reveal hidden horrors.

WANDERLUST: 60 YEARS OF IMAGES

by Thomas Hoepker | TENEUES | \$95
 As a longtime member and erstwhile president of Magnum, Hoepker has seen it all over the decades, and this 300-plus-page volume conveys his journalistic reach—from gruesome wars to avant garde art—and empathetic eye. —J.C.

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