



20th Century Photography: Museum Ludwig Cologne

Marianne Bieger-Thielemann, Museum Ludwig Cologne

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Images of the century (TASCHEN's 25th anniversary special edition) The history of photography began some 150 years ago, but only relatively recently has it been fully recognised as a medium in its own right. Cologne's Museum Ludwig was the first museum of contemporary art to devote a substantial section to international photography. The L. Fritz Gruber collection, from which this book is drawn, is one of the most important in Germany and one of the most representative anywhere in the world, constituting the core of the museum's holdings. This book provides a fascinating insight into the collection's rich diversity; from conceptual art to abstraction to reportage, all of the major movements and genres are represented via a vast selection of the century's most remarkable photographs. From Ansel Adams to Piet Zwart, over 850 works are presented in alphabetical order by photographer, with descriptive texts and photographers' biographical details.

20th Century Photography: Museum Ludwig Cologne Details

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Alejandro Teruel says

Excelente recopilación de fotografías representativas que forman parte de la destacada colección del Museum Ludwig de Colonia (museo fundado en 1976 y dedicado a las artes del siglo XX y XXI), organizadas alfabéticamente por apellido del fotógrafo. Se incluye una breve biografía de cada fotógrafo. La mayor parte de las fotografías son en blanco y negro y aunque predominan los fotógrafos nacidos en Alemania (109 de los casi 300 incluidos), se nota que el museo ha hecho importantes esfuerzos para incluir obras de fotógrafos internacionales de otros países como Estados Unidos, el resto de Europa (Reino Unido, Francia, Holanda, Italia, la República Checa, Rusia, Ucrania, Italia, Hungría, Polonia, Austria) y Japón entre otros. Hay poca o nula representación de fotógrafos africanos, latinoamericanos o asiáticos (fuera de Japón), al parecer a menos que hayan desarrollado parte de su carrera profesional en Alemania. Las fotografías incluidas son del siglo XX, salvo por la errónea inclusión de fotografías del escocés David Octavius Hill, quien murió en 1870.

Importante libro de referencia, sobre todo para la fotográfica en blanco y negro del siglo XX, a precio muy asequible.

Catalina says

Comprehensive. But why is it that non-Western photographers can only be documenting things and not be creative?

Lotte says

The compilation of photographers is excellent, but the biographies were far too factual and could have explained the purposes of the artist better, rather than drily mentioning place of birth, schooling and place of death.

Ray Dunsmore says

An interesting overview of the highlights of the vast photography collection held by the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, Germany since the 1970s. Containing everything from the turn of the century daugerrototype-esque heliogravures of Steichen and co. to the more abstract modern color prints, this collection seems to leave almost nothing out of its sweep. Since this functions as a compilation of photography, I'll give you my list of the artists that stood out to me above all else: a best of a best-of.

Ansel Adams / Richard Avedon / Bill Brandt / Brassai / Marlo Broekmans / Henri Cartier-Bresson / Chargesheimer / Rosemarie Clausen / Serge Moreno Cohen / Erwin von Dessauer / Jean Dieuzaide / Harold E. Edgerton / Erwin Fieger / Franco Fontana / Peter H. Fürst / Hideki Fuji / Marc Garanger / Ernst Haas /

Robert Häusser / Philippe Halsman / Heinz Held / Gottfried Helnwein / Fritz Henle / Horst P. Horst / Dmitri Jermakov / Burkhard Jüttner / Birgit Kahle / Yousuf Karsh / Erika Kiffi / Herlinde Koelbl / Michel Szulc Krzyanowski / Robert Lebeck / Herbert List / George Platt Lynes / Mary Ellen Mark / Robert Mapplethorpe / Martin Munkaci / Angela Neuke / Hajime Sawatari / Hugo Schmölz / David "Chim" Seymour / Kishin Shinoyama / Alice Springs / Edward Steichen / Bert Stern / Dennis Stock / Wolf Strache / Helfried Strauß / Carl Strüwe / Josef Sudek / Karin Székessy / Ulrich Tillman & Wolfgang Vollmer / Shoji Ueda / Christian Vogt / Gerhard Vormwald / Pan Walther / Weegee / Edward Weston / Charles Wilp / Joel Peter Witkin / Reinhard Wolf / Wols / Renate Zeun

To be honest, a cursory googling of all of those names would elicit a better photographic introduction than this book would be, but the book is great anyway. Recommended for anyone just starting to notice art photography.

Ziyad Khader says

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brian tanabe says

An amateur's survey of last century's greatest photographers -- perfect for one such as myself who has a passion but no expertise in this field. Some phtograhpers that define the era for me are Lewis Hine, Erich Salomon, August Sander, Steichen, and Stieglitz. Yousuf Karsh and Richard Avedon are clearly masters of their art. And then there is Cartier-Bresson, who holds a special place in my heart as "Rue Mouffetard" is one of my absolute favorite photographs. And of course, Mr. Newton. Yummy.

John Lawrence says

Brief histories of every "important" photographer of the 20th century. Obviously no deep coverage here, but a good synopsis with photos for each.

Richard says

Not exactly a reading book but a wonderful archive of portraits of people and life in the troubled last century.

All the great names are there. Bresson, Man Ray and hundreds of others. The book is nearly 800 pages so will not be cheap but is beautiful with photos ranging from grainy early 20th century images to a few colour at the end. What sticks in the memory most are the images of war and refugees and their haunted faces....and

that the same things are still happening today.

It's not all doom and gloom as there are beautiful models (male and female) and quite a few erotic photos too. Something for everyone! I have a paperback copy so maybe it can be found at not too high a price?

LocoErasmo says

Muy bueno para saber el por qué de las fotos y sus autores.

Forrest says

When buying photography books on the cheap, one generally gets what one pays for. But Taschen's budget editions break the mold. This fat little hardcover (760 pages) is both a handy reference work and an inspirational launching point for further exploration, perfect for people like me who love photography but don't yet have a deep historical grounding.

The material is wonderfully diverse. 278 artists — from Ansel Adams to Piet Zwart — are presented alphabetically, covering the whole of the 20th century and ranging widely across genres and styles. There are nudes and abstracts, portraits and architectural studies, studio still life and "decisive moment" street scenes. The 860 photographs are all drawn from the collection of the Museum Ludwig in Köln, so German photographers are particularly well represented.

The book is a joy to browse despite the small reproductions, and the biographical sketches, although dry, are informative. I'm sure I'll refer to this book often as I continue my photographic education.

LaLa says

I was hoping this would be all images. Or images and interesting facts. Or how the pictures were taken. Instead it was images and like where the photographer was born. Boo

Marc says

The collection of photographs is quite impressive and inspiring for just about anyone interested in photography... personally i would have preferred to have more details regarding each photograph added... but that's just being picky...

Ernest Junius says

A fantastic introduction to modern photography. The book features a great range of photography masters from Henri Cartier Bresson to Norman Parkinson.

The image quality was great and such it looks nice in the shelf.

A must have for every photography enthusiast.

Dewayne Martin says

I am giving this 5 stars, not because of the photography that's displayed in this book as much as for it exposing me to a number of photographers who I have begun to follow ever since. In some instances, this book shows some of the more famous works by the various photographers, but not in many. I don't know if it's a copyright thing or what, but the book does provide the reader/viewer with a good notion of who's work you may want to further look into, and for that I love the book. Lastly, I really appreciated how it truly is 20th century photography and not photography of one genre...this book covers the entire spectrum of photography over the entire century. Loved this book and still reference it often.

Benji says

Loved Ansel Adams' Rose on Driftwood

Lucien Clergue's Nudes of the Sea

Gibson's Somnambulist, and and of course Alfred Cheney Johnson

and the Grad Prix 12 photos,

Shinoyama's nude over a a fence

Ray Man

and the fish in jar by the sea
