CELEBRATION OF THE HAND: THE SOUL OF THE WEST

BY PHOTOGRAPHER SETH STERN

Craft Lake City's "Celebration of the Hand: The Soul of the West" is a collection of black & white photographs depicting the dynamic culture of cowboys in Utah.

About the Artist:
Seth Stern, Craft Lake City's Cowboy Photographer was often a "developing processor."

A high school dropout from Los Angeles, I was an underexposed filmmaker, chewed up and spit out by the industry, until I began living in my car and traveling the West. Sometimes I would stumble upon a ranch or rodeo. Up to the subtle country I was raised in, like Marty Robbins and Johnny Cash, I felt a calling to photograph a world entirely different from my own: The American West.

Family and friends rarely held back their jokes or concerns, "Why would you want to do that?" I felt compelled to keep working myself to the bone because chasing art was the only thing that could quiet my mind. I had an unwavering belief that I was meant to be a photographer, and I ended up being a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way, the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life took new meaning. God had protected me and led me to a place I never knew I was looking for. At first, folks began calling me the Cowboy Photographer.

The click of that shutter became my redemption song. Each frame, a prayer. Through the art, I healed. In the light I discovered, I found God. Me and the world just a bit more at ease. Now, I know I was a prodigal, one who had turn a wounded life into a soul-warm living. – Seth Stern

About Craft Lake City: Founded in 2009 by Angela H. Brown, Executive Editor of SLUG MAG, Craft Lake City (formerly Craft Lake Utah) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to educate, inspire and connect Utah's creatives while elevating the creative culture of the state's community through science, technology and the arts. Craft Lake City's tagline is "Where the Born Crafts," by inspiring the rebirth of the handmade craft.
Contact Craft Lake City: craft@slugmag.com

About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City's "Celebration of the Hand" is a collection of 4 human metal frames adjacent to the sidewalks in downtown Salt Lake City (Between 200 South, between 300 West and 400 West, between 200 South, between 300 West and 400 West). The frames are in the exhibitions are open to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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