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, Cowboy Photographer was often a fascinating process.

A high school dropout from Los Angeles, I was an unemployed filmmaker, chewed up and spit out by the industry; until I began living in my car and traveling the Western Rodeo circuit. Inspired by photographer Ansel Adams, by the outlaw country I was raised on 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, as I left my life behind to follow my dream. Even when 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 out there, and I was meant to bang a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way, the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life started to make meaning. God had a plan for me to build me into who I was meant to be. I didn't know that 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 captured, I found God. Me, I am nothing. I am just a tool — it's a beautiful thing when a tool gets to play, and that tool can turn a broken life into a story worth telling. – Seth Stern

About Craft Lake City: Founded in 2009 by Angela H. Brown, Executive Editor of SLUG MAG, the mission of "Celebration of the Craft Lake City" is a SOULCE collaborative organization with the mission to educate, inspire and connect the community while revealing the creative culture of the Utah arts community through science, technology and craftsmanship. Craft Lake City is the born "Craft," its modernizing it the definition of handmade creativity.
@craftlakecity craftlakecity.com

About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City's "Celebration of the Hand" is a collection of Western metal frame aspen art by the artworks in downtown Salt Lake City. Exhibition locations include Gallery Stores, Broadway, 350 South, between 200 West and 300 West. Exhibition dates are Sept 15 - Oct 15. Exhibitions are open to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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