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, the Cowboy Photographer was often a misunderstood filmmaker.

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 West. Spending time with cowboys and cowgirls, I was drawn to the rubber country I was raised on like Merle Haggard 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, and I felt, from time to time, that I was crazy for not working myself to the bone because chasing art was the only thing that could quiet my mind. I had an unsearing desire to photograph cowboys and cowgirls, and I was not using a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way, the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life found new meaning. God had broken me down to build me back up. Over time, as my work matured and fell in flow, 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. My camera isn't just a tool — it's a testament. It's a sacred ritual, proof that the soul 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 Magazine, Craft Lake City (formerly Craft Lake Utah) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the mission to educate, inspire and connect Utah's creative community through science, technology and craft. Craft Lake City is a nonprofit, whose mission is to celebrate the creative culture of the Utah arts community through science, technology and craft. Craft Lake City's mission is to celebrate the term "Craft," by modernizing it to embrace the handmade creative economy.

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About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City's Celebration of the Hand: The Soul of the West is a Salt Lake Arts Council Gallery Walk exhibition in downtown Salt Lake City. Celebration of the Hand: The Soul of the West runs from Friday, 3rd Fourth, between 200 West and 300 West, and is a free event. Gallery exhibitions are open to the public for free, a day / 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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