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's Cowboy Photographer was often a fascinating processes.

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 U.S. photographing cowboys and their culture. Up the subtle 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, "Why would you want to do that?" Sometimes I felt like 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 do this work, that I was meant to be a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way, the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life found new meaning. God had protected me and to build me up into a new person. I felt I was meant to do 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. My camera isn't just a tool — it's a sacred instrument, a spiritual compass, a divine 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, the mission of Craft Lake City/ Craft Lake City® is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the mission to educate, inspire and connect people through celebrating the creative culture of the Utah arts community through science, technology and craft. Craft Lake City/ Craft Lake City® is the term "Craft," its modernizing it the definition of handmade creative.
@craftlakecity craftlakecity.com

About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City/ Craft Lake City® presents "Celebration of the Hand" in Kanban metal frames adjacent to the sidewalks in downtown Salt Lake City between Main Street and Regent Street on Broadway, 350 South, between 200 West and 300 West. Viewing is free and open to the public. Exhibitions are open to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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