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 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 West. I was a hitchhiker and I was picked up and taken home by 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, "Seth, you don't belong out there!" I ignored them and working myself to the bone because chasing art was the only thing that could quiet my mind. I had an unwavering belief that I belonged out there, and I was on the path to being a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way, the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life took new meaning. God had a different plan for me and my work was never the same. Initially, 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. Ms. Carmen isn't just a tool — it's a testament to the power of a spirit that once was torn apart, 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 behind Craft Lake City® is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the mission to educate, inspire and connect people with the goal of elevating the creative culture of the Utah arts community through science, technology and craft. Craft Lake City's logo is a trademark, the term "Craft," its moderning f, the definition of handmade creative.
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About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City's "Celebration of the Hand" is a collection of Kanban metal frames adjacent to the sidewalks in downtown Salt Lake City between Main Street and Edison Street, Broadway, 300 South, between 200 West and 400 West. Each of the 12 frames with exhibitions are covered the outer 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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