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, Salt Lake Valley Photographer was often a fascinating processor.

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 travelling the Western United States photographing the people I encountered. Up 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, "Why would you want to do that?" I would respond by working myself to the bone because creating art was the only thing that could quiet my mind. I had an unwavering belief that photography was my calling, and I was meant to be a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way, the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life started to make sense. I had a dream that I'd build me a North Hollywood, Los Angeles, CA shack 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. Mr. Cowboy isn't just a tool — it's a testament to how a person can take what life throws at them and 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 behind Craft Lake City! is a SOLELY charitable, organization with the mission to educate, inspire and connect people while also elevating the creative culture of the Utah arts community through science, technology and craft. Craft Lake City! is the only event in the term "Craft," to modernizing it the definition for hand-made creativity.
@craftlakecity craftlakecity.com

About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City! Presents Celebration of the Hand, a showcase of human metal frames apparent to the sidewalks in downtown Salt Lake City. Celebration of the Hand is located on Main Street, Broadway, 200 South, between 200 West and 400 West. Celebration of the Hand is open to all exhibitions and counts the public for hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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