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, Craft Lake City Photographer was often a fascinating processor.

A high school dropout from Los Angeles, I was an underpaid filmmaker, chewed up and spit out by the industry, until I began living in my car and traveling the West. Upon my first encounter with the cowboy culture up to the sublime 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, but I was driven to do this work. I was tired of my life and wanted to the bone because chasing art was the only thing that could quiet my mind. I had an unwavering desire to photograph cowboys, and I was on the road to being a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way, the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life found new meaning. So I had a dream to build me a home in Utah, and I made it happen. Shortly 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 discovered, I found God. My heart isn't just a tool — it's a cathedral. My home is a sanctuary, and my life's work 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 annual celebration of Craft Lake City is a SOLICIT nonprofit organization with the mission to educate, inspire and connect people through art, revealing the creative culture of the Utah arts community through science, technology and craft. Craft Lake City is proud to be the home-born "Craft," by modernizing it the definition of handmade creative.
@craftlakecity **craftlakecity.com**

About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City's "Celebration of the Hand: The Soul of the West" is Sundance-inspired frame-apparent to the extensible in downtown Salt Lake City. Celebration of the Hand is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Oct 2nd-4th, between 10A-6pm. Celebration of the Hand is a free event, and exhibitions are open to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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