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 underground filmmaker, chewed up and spit out by the industry, until I began living in my car and traveling the United States. Photographs I made while hitchhiking and riding by the rubber (country) was seized 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 pokes or concerns, but I was driven to the West. I felt a compulsion to keep 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 be a photographer, and I ended up 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 of wanting to build me a church near Moab, Utah. I had a vision of it 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 love. Me and the art just a tool — it's a sacred ritual. I have found a purpose, and I have found an barn a broken life into a slow warm living. — Seth Stern

About Craft Lake City: Founded in 2009 by Angela H. Brown, Executive Editor of SLUG Mag, the mission of Craft Lake City/Craft Lake Utah 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/Craft Lake Utah is also the born "Craft," its modernizing f the artisan, the handmade creative.
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About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City/Craft Lake Utah's "Celebration of the Hand" is a traveling exhibition of human-made frames exposed to the extremities in downtown Salt Lake City: Gallery Stroll, Sundance Film Festival, Main Street Broadway, 350 South, between 200 West and Rio Grande Street. Viewing of the traveling exhibitions are cost-to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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