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 Western United States photographing the people I encountered by the subtle country I was raised on like Marty Robbins and Johnny Cash. I felt a calling by photograph a world entirely different from my own: the American West.

Family and friends rarely held back their jokes or concerns, but I was on a mission to find my place in life 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 was meant to be out there, and I was meant to be being a Western photographer. Somewhere along the way the work changed me. My stone heart softened, my life started to make sense. God had a purpose for my life and my work was a part of it. I felt a passionate desire to 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. Mr. Stern isn't just a tool — it's a ministry. It's a mission. It's a purpose. It's a place that can 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 annual celebration of Craft Lake City® is a SINGLE creatable 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 a trademark, the term "Craft," its moderning it the definition of handmade creativity.
@craftlakecity craftlakecity.com

About Celebration of the Hand: Craft Lake City's "Celebration of the Hand" is a collection of Kuntson metal frames pegged to the sidewalks in downtown Salt Lake City — specifically on Exchange Place between Main Street, 350 South, between 200 West and 300 West. The frames are free to view and the exhibitions are open to the public 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and are free of charge.

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