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Women Of Vision: National Geographic Photographers On Assignment



Synopsis

Women photographers have produced many of National Geographic's most powerful photo-narratives of the past decade. These talented photojournalists are celebrated in this captivating photography book, covering places and subjects around the globe and sharing the same passion and commitment to storytelling that has come to define National Geographic magazine, with more than 31 million readers worldwide. *Women of Vision* is a tribute to the spirit and the ambition of these journalists and artists who have created riveting, visual experiences through the insightful, sensitive, and strategic use of a camera. With an introduction by Chris Johns, editor-in-chief of National Geographic magazine, and a thoughtful foreword by acclaimed journalist Ann Curry, this book presents both personal reflections and stunning selections of photographic assignment work from the past decade, setting a new standard for excellence that will continue to inspire for decades to come. From the elegant landscapes of the Mongolian steppes to the war-torn battlefields of Iraq; from the last great wildernesses of Africa to the flash and tumult of the Jersey Shore, these stories explore the realities of our world and the depths of what it means to be human in the 21st century.

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Customer Reviews

For decades the Director of Photography at The National Geographic Society was seeking women photographers. The reason wasn't just that women see differently than men, but a more practical reason was that men simply aren't allowed into certain situations especially in Muslim Societies. My daughter, who is not a photographer, had a college room mate who was a Princess of a Muslim

Country and when they went on an around the world jaunt my daughter was able to gain entry into a world closed to men. She has been able to visit harems and stay in "women only" quarters in several Arab countries. In this National Geographic book there are examples of both the different way women see life and scenes from places forbidden to men. There are eleven women photographers included in this collection. There is a brief biography and a black and white portrait of each of them (to separate them from their mostly color NGS work). There is a short portfolio of each woman's work and vision. There are many beautiful photographs included in this 200 plus page collection that could easily be the work of either a male or female photographer. It would be difficult to tell which is which. But most of the images scream a female perspective. The "no men allowed" locales show relaxed women and their children being women. Or in several outstanding photographs women are seen training for life in the military. Sometimes the shock of viewing these women warriors with their AK-47's while wearing Burkas is amazing. This coffee table book will provide a much different look at the world than is provided by most other collections of fine art photographs. Men and women do see the world differently and this book is a wonderful example of that fact of life.

The book showcases a selection of photographs from 11 National Geographic photographers. Each woman's work is preceded by her photograph, a thoughtful quote showcasing her vision, and a brief biography. The photos are expertly curated and peppered with additional quotes from the photographer about what she's trying to achieve on the assignment; concurrently telling the story of the photographer and the assignment. As an amateur photographer, I found the coupling of the photographs with the quotes and biographies compelling. I'm often impressed by an excellent composition or technically difficult shot, but this collection demonstrates the magic that happens when the photographer goes deeper into the spiritual place that all of these women find in their work. Even when that place is incredibly demanding. Truly inspiring! Women of Vision is an exciting collection that deserves a spot on any discerning coffee table.

Women photographers seldom have an exhibit as wonderful as this one that celebrates people in all their iterations, birth, marriage, divorce, death and does so in many worlds. One photog immersed herself in the reindeer people, another in Afghanistan. I went back three times to see the exhibit at Cranbrook Science Institute outside Detroit. I can't go again so I got the book and enjoy it heartily.

When a photography book carries the National Geographic label, you know you are going to get a

book that is filled with wonderful pictures. In *Women of Vision*, you get that and so much more. The female photographers chosen for this book share their history and their vision of the world around them. Through their lens, you will find photos that will delight, photos that will disturb and photos that will stay in your mind long after you've closed the book. This is definitely a coffee table keeper. One bound to provoke conversation with anyone who picks up the book even if they only look at a few of the marvelous images. If nothing more, this book proves beyond any doubt that women can be just as masterful behind the lens as any man.

I saw this exhibit at The Field Museum in Chicago and instantly fell in love with it!! When I heard it was a book I immediately ordered it. Now I can relive the memories of my vacation and enjoy the exhibit whenever I want.

This is a collection of stunning photographs created by 11 talented National Geographic photographers. A portrait and short bio of each of the photographers is included, which provides an extra layer of meaning to the featured photographs. Beautiful, beautiful coffee table book.

I've been procrastinating writing this review for one reason: there's no way I can do justice to the beautiful and soul-stirring book of photographs. I have looked at it again and again, often coming back to some of the same remarkable photographs. Filled with pictures of amazing landscapes, endangered wildlife, and fascinating people, the book transported me away from South Carolina and my middle class life to the Mexican border, a firing range near Kabul, and a full moon above the way leading to Mount St. Helens. My personal favorite is one of the cross sections of two brains, one a healthy one and the other Alzheimer-diseased. I saw people harvesting cotton in Xinjiang, China, women in Kabul training for jobs at a firing range, and the tragic face of a young man in the Congo dying of monkeypox. I saw some of the most unique photographs of animals that I've ever seen, including one of a day-old buffalo calf dying in the grip of a lioness. Many of the images saddened me and awakened me to realities unknown to my somewhat narrow life. Others made me smile like the one of twins in the film *Creeporia*. I learned about things I'd never even imagined, things like zoonosis, a process in which diseases cross to humans from another species. On page 160, there's a photograph of an innocent little girl holding a basket above her head. Here's the caption: "Despite the health risks, bush meat like the Gambian are and severed monkey arm from the girl's basket are common fare." I learned that in Mumbai prostitutes are called cage girls and that Nepal has low literacy rates and high tuberculosis and blindness rates. All of the pictures tell a story and all are

arresting. Anyone even vaguely interested in what it's like to be human in today's world, the whole big wide world, will enjoy this book.

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