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# Alex Webb: La Calle: Photographs From Mexico



## Synopsis

La Calle brings together more than thirty years of photography from the streets of Mexico by Alex Webb, spanning 1975 to 2007. Whether in black and white or color, Webb's richly layered and complex compositions touch on multiple genres. As Geoff Dyer writes, "Wherever he goes, Webb always ends up in a Bermuda-shaped triangle where the distinctions between photojournalism, documentary, and art blur and disappear. Webb's ability to distill gesture, light, and cultural tensions into single, beguiling frames results in evocative images that convey a sense of mystery, irony, and humor. Following an initial trip in the mid-1970s, Webb returned frequently to Mexico, working intensely on the U.S.-Mexico border and into southern Mexico throughout the 1980s and 1990s, inspired by what poet Octavio Paz calls Mexicanism—delight in decorations, carelessness and pomp, negligence, passion, and reserve. La Calle presents a commemoration of the Mexican street as a sociopolitical bellwether—albeit one that has undergone significant transformation since Webb's first trips to the country. Newly commissioned pieces from noted Mexican and Mexican American authors lend further insight into the roles the streets have played for generations: part arterial network, part historical palimpsest, and part absurdist theater of the everyday.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 180 pages

Publisher: Aperture; 1 edition (September 15, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1597113719

ISBN-13: 978-1597113717

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.8 x 10.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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## Customer Reviews

Alex Webb (born in San Francisco, 1952) has published eleven books, including *Memory City* (2014) and *Violet Isle: A Duet of Photographs from Cuba* (2009) with Rebecca Norris Webb, as well as a survey of his color work, *The Suffering of Light* (Aperture, 2011). Webb became a full member of Magnum Photos in 1979. His work has been shown widely, including at the Metropolitan Museum

of Art and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. He has received numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007 and the Leica Medal of Excellence in 2000. v Guillermo Arriaga is an Academy Award-nominated writer, director, and producer whose screenwriting credits include Amores Perros (2000), 21 Grams (2003), The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada (2005), and Babel (2006). Álvaro Enrigue is an essayist, critic, and author of several novels and short story collections, including Sudden Death (2013), for which he received the prestigious Herralde Prize. Valeria Luiselli is the author of three books, including Faces in the Crowd (2014), a recipient of the Los Angeles Times Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction, and a contributing writer to the New York Times, McSweeney's, and the New Yorker. Guadalupe Nettel is Granta's Best Untranslated Writer, a selectee for the Bogotá39, finalist for the 2016 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and winner of the Herralde Prize for her novel Después del invierno (2014). Mónica de la Torre is the author of five collections of original poetry, including The Happy End/All Welcome (2016). She teaches in the creative writing MFA program at Columbia University and is the senior editor of BOMB Magazine.

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