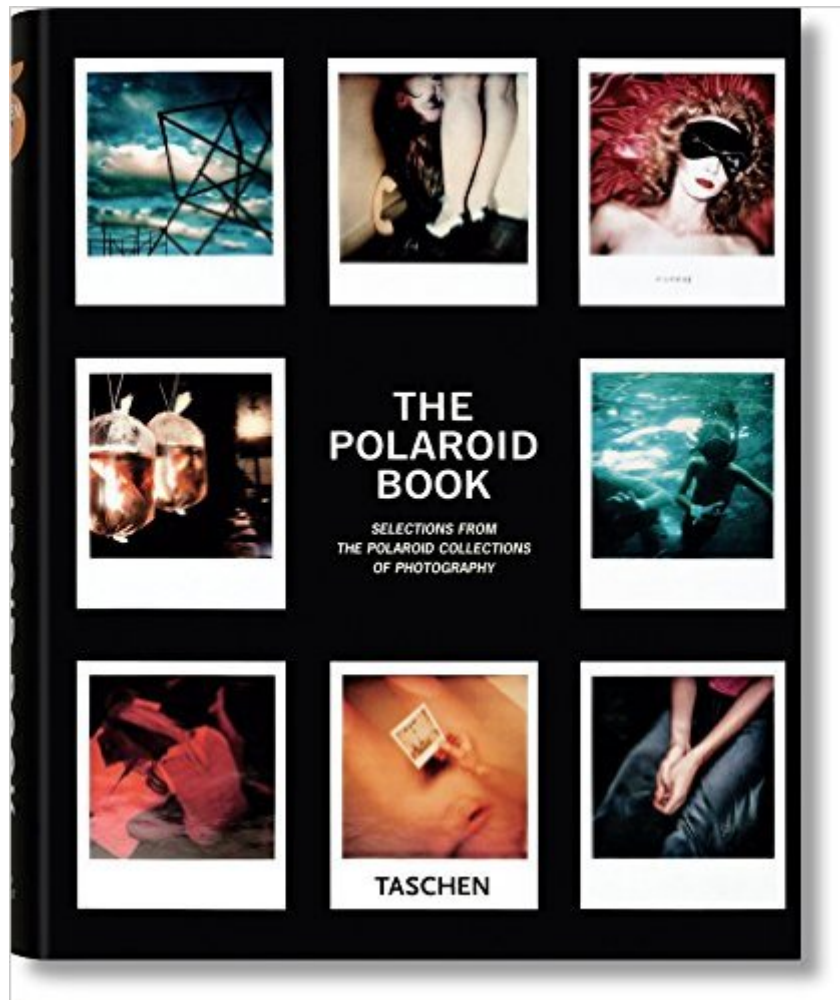


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# The Polaroid Book



## Synopsis

Defining moments    In existence for over 50 years, the Polaroid Corporation's photography collection is the greatest collection of Polaroid images in the world. Begun by Polaroid founder Edwin Land and photographer Ansel Adams, the collection now includes images by hundreds of photographers throughout the world and contains important pieces by artists such as David Hockney, Helmut Newton, Jeanloup Sieff, and Robert Rauschenberg. The Polaroid Book, a survey of this remarkable collection, pays tribute to a medium that defies the digital age and remains a favorite among artists for its quirky look and instantly gratifying, one-of-a-kind images.    over 400 works from the Polaroid Collections    essay by Polaroid's Barbara Hitchcock illuminating the beginnings and history of the collection    technical reference section featuring the various types of Polaroid cameras    Text in English, French, and German

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars    See all reviews (54 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Most readers will likely be overwhelmed and delighted from reading the "Polaroid Book, Selections from the Polaroid Collections of Photography" not only because of the visual appeal and variety of technical use with the images, but in discovering how Edwin Land, the inventor, and Ansel Adams, the photographer, met and how Adams became an integral part of the Polaroid Company. The two met in 1948 as the first Polaroid "Land" camera was introduced to the world providing photographs that gave an instant image to the photographer. No more waiting for photographs by sending film off for processing. Land hired Adams as an artistic consultant. His assignment: test cameras, film

and related photographic paraphernalia in the field and in the studio and report back. Edwin Land finds not only a colleague and life-long friend in Ansel Adams, but a most admired artist--a label that Land felt suited him as well. Both were captured by the art of photography. Adams began collecting photographs to be used as the "standard" of which to compare the "Polaroid" results. Work by famous photographers such as Minor White, Eliot Porter, Laura Gilpin, and Margaret Bourke-White, and others, were purchased as "the Library Collection". This collection grew as relatively unknown photographers' work was added which evolved into what is now "the Polaroid Collections". This body of work wasn't simply the routine, the established, the expected of each photographers' particular style. It evolved into experiments with often breath-taking outcomes.

On my desk at the moment is a cherished copy of "The Polaroid Book: Selections from the Polaroid Collections of Photography", published by Taschen. This book is a delightful ode to a fantastic art medium that is, unfortunately, fading out. The immediacy and intimacy of Polaroid photography simply cannot be replicated by digital photography. Sure, you can pick up a digital camera and point and shoot all you like, but you won't have a completed, printed image sliding gracefully out of the camera and developing before your eyes. You will also not get the opportunity to dismember the image during its development and experiment with such delights as transfer printing. Don't get me wrong, digital photography definitely has its merits and its vast possibilities - I'm a fanatic and practitioner myself. However, there is no other photographic medium that can possibly compare with the inimitable Polaroid - and it is sad to see it slowly diminish and disappear from the shelves. The Polaroid Book is, in my opinion, a most fitting tribute to the Polaroid technology. Edited by Steve Crist, and with an introductory essay by Barbara Hitchcock (Director of The Polaroid Collections and written in September 2004), the book includes 254 images and a brief overview of some of the more significant cameras sold by the company. One of the downsides of this book, like all great photographic books, is that you are left feeling somewhat let down by the fact that it is not the original works that you are looking at. The temptation to pick the image up off the page, feel it and hold it is, in my case, quite overwhelming.

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The Polaroid Book  
Polaroid Transfers: A Complete Visual Guide to Creating Image and Emulsion Transfers  
A Triumph of Genius: Edwin Land, Polaroid, and the Kodak Patent War  
Instant: The Story of Polaroid  
Magical Unicorns and Fairies: Adult Coloring Book: Unicorn Coloring Book, Fairy Coloring Book, Fantasy Coloring Book, Fairies Coloring Book, Adult Coloring Book  
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