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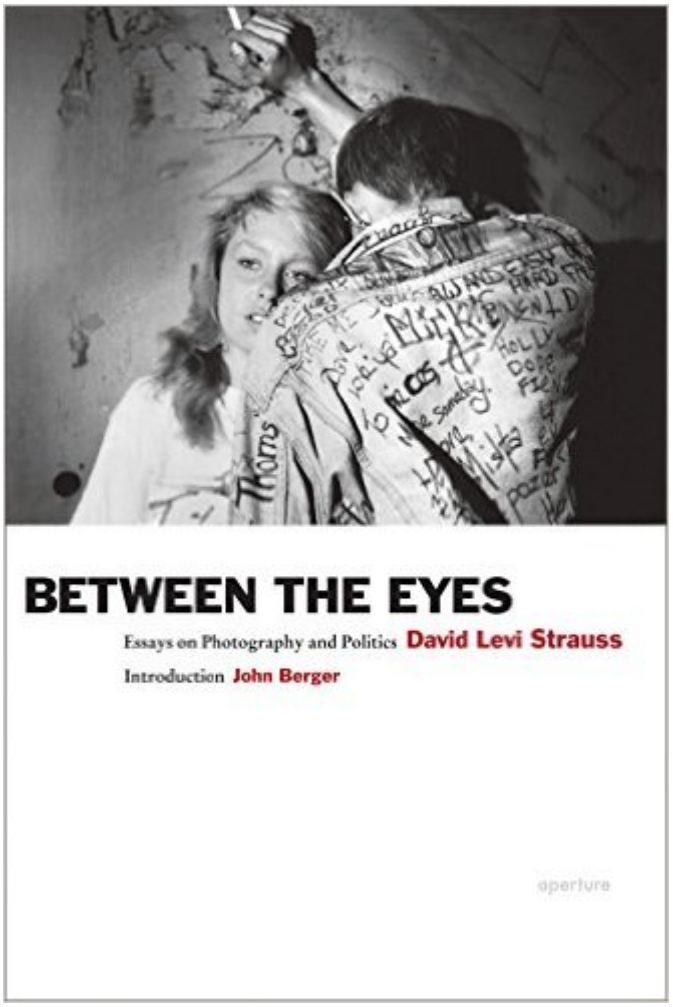
David Levi Strauss: Between The Eyes: Essays On Photography And Politics



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Synopsis

In an era of social confusion and visual pandemonium, David Levi Strauss tackles issues of photography and politics in a way that few critics today are courageous enough to attempt. The essays collected in "Between the Eyes" address topics ranging from propaganda and the imagery of dreams, to SebastiÃ£o Salgado's epic social documents and the deeply personal photographic revelations of Francesca Woodman. Other issues broached here include the legitimacy of photographic imagery and the media frenzy surrounding the events of September 11, as well as essays on the work of Ania Bien, Miguel Rio Branco, Alfredo Jaar, Joel-Peter Witkin and others, plus an interview with painter Leon Golub (who worked from photographs). Reviewing the first edition of "Between the Eyes," "Publisher's Weekly" wrote: "'Photography and Propaganda, ' a study of the work and deaths in '80s Central America of photojournalists Richard Cross and John Hoagland, should be required reading in the age of embeddedness, and 'Photography and Belief' is a terrific meditation on truth in the age of digital manipulation."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

New York writer, critic, and poet David Levi Strauss presents, Between The Eyes: Essays On Photography And Politics, an anthology of stimulating, serious-minded essays about the interplay of photography and politics, as well as hot-button topics and lasting social issues pertaining to both. A handful of chapters are not independent essays per se, but rather interviews with experienced photographers. From "Where the Camera Cannot Go" to "A Threnody for Street Kids", "Photography and Propaganda" and much more, each writing lays bare the core of photography

and politics - or sometimes, the core of the author. From true stories of optimistic photographers struggling to use their craft to help the oppressed, to the stunning impact that cameras any layperson can easily use have had upon photography as a whole, Between The Eyes is an insightful, contemplative, tightly written set of discussions, illustrated with a handful of well-chosen photographic images.

This is a phenomenal book that every photographer should read before even touching a camera again."Between the Eyes: Essays on Photography and Politics" by David Levi Strauss is a collection of writings, most of which came out during the ’90s to review works by photographers and artists such as Alfredo Jaar, Francesca Woodman, Witkin, Miguel Rio Branco and Ania Bien. The very well argued points that the author makes across the book, range from Photography and Propaganda and the imagery of dreams to Sebastiao Salgado’s social documents, all the way to the very personal photographic research that the troubled artist who was Francesca Woodman created in her time. A chapter titled "Photography and Belief" revolves around the issue of photographic legitimacy, while another chapter named "The Highest Degree of Illusion" deals with the media obsession with some major events such as the terrible happenings of September 11th. All of these essays have been published on major outlets around the world, such as Aperture, Artforum and The Nation.I strongly suggest this book for anyone that deals with images, which, nowadays as the book argues, is everyone since we are all navigating through the Pandemonium of photos that we are constantly exposed to. Just like Walter Benjamin’s Flaneur who walks the streets of Paris and is flooded by all the visual input of all the shop windows that he sees but that he can’t retain, today we are constantly exposed to a visual noise that we very much need to understand how to filter in order to make sense of the images we see. This book is a great way to move the first steps towards such understanding that can lead us to a more informed processing of the visual world.

Very educating and moving in its content, and interesting to read as well. I have to admit I bought it because I saw John Berger wrote the introduction. So, it is a good, new discovery for me which I would recommend to all.

Politics rules our lives. Just think of the images that came out of the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement. The behind the scenes pictures of the daily Presidential grind. This book is an invaluable insight into the reality of our daily, increasingly difficult lives.

New York writer, critic, and poet David Levi Strauss presents, Between The Eyes: Essays On Photography And Politics, an anthology of stimulating, serious-minded essays about the interplay of photography and politics, as well as hot-button topics and lasting social issues pertaining to both. A handful of chapters are not independent essays per se, but rather interviews with experienced photographers. From "Where the Camera Cannot Go" to "A Threnody for Street Kids", "Photography and Propaganda" and much more, each writing lays bare the core of photography and politics - or sometimes, the core of the author. From true stories of optimistic photographers struggling to use their craft to help the oppressed, to the stunning impact that cameras any layperson can easily use have had upon photography as a whole, Between The Eyes is an insightful, contemplative, tightly written set of discussions, illustrated with a handful of well-chosen photographic images.

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