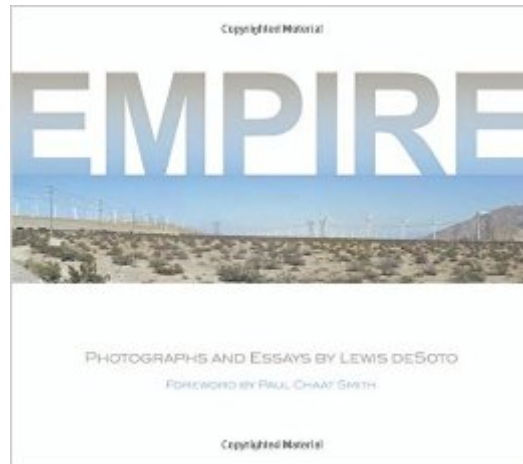


The book was found

Empire: Photographs And Essays By Lewis DeSoto



Synopsis

In this book of photographs and essays, noted visual artist Lewis deSoto explores his birthplace and ancestral Cahuilla homeland, the "marvelous and abject" landscape of Southern California's Inland Empire. Sixty intimate photos capture the paradoxes of the region's deserts, lushly manicured lawns, freeways, and inland sea. Punctuating these single-frame images are panoramas of landscapes that capture infinitudes of detail. DeSoto's captions unpack these panoramic shots, revealing their geologic, social, and cultural significance. But beyond captions, *Empire* marks deSoto's emergence as a nonfiction writer. Eight essays meditate on a youth spent in regions including San Bernardino, mountainous Highway 18, Rancho Cucamonga, Riverside, and Palm Springs. DeSoto's elegant prose marks these places as locales of rich history, industrialization, sharp social strata, as well as sites of deep personal transformation. Taken as a whole, this is the work of an established artist and the dawn of a new literary voice: one that both assembles, piece by piece, a picture of a specific place, and deconstructs the complexities of home.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Heyday (January 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1597143340

ISBN-13: 978-1597143349

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.5 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,555,770 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #156 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Essays](#) #514 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Criticism & Essays](#) #4735 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Travel](#)

Customer Reviews

"*Empire*" by Lewis deSoto, an established visual artist of Cahuilla heritage, is a collection of eight essays and sixty photographs that masterfully weaves his personal and ancestral history with the social, cultural, geological, political, and architectural story of the Inland Empire of Southern California. The photographs are both single frame and extended panoramas that document a range of subjects from vernacular architecture to large scale topographical overviews. All the images are

packed with detail and subtle, but rich, evocative content. The panoramas, some of which are printed in dramatic foldouts, give a tactile tangibility to the space and flow of the Inland Empire landscape. The essays and extended captions are meaningful and expressive reads with some heartbreakingly poetic and eloquent passages. The elegance of his prose comes not only from its sophistication and refinement but equally from his honesty and directness. His carefully disciplined aesthetic distance in both the writing and photographs appears initially dispassionate which makes the currents of emotion, pain and loss more powerful and effective. While *Empire* can function as a document of a region and the story of a specific individual it is also a chronicle of the unfolding creation of self and the search for home that has a profound wide ranging appeal.

I know Lewis DeSoto as a brilliant artist of great originality, but I didn't know he was such a good writer. With *Empire* he has integrated his great eye as a photographer with an insightful and personal text. Here is my favorite excerpt: "Now I cruise into the valleys below San Geronimo Pass and see the hint of Los Angeles in the western glow of muggy ocean air. I remember how chaos reinvents everything.....Chaos parches the orange groves. Fast-food architecture clusters like cancer at the junctions of freeways. Walmart parking lots are dotted with homeless people living in their cars. Stucco houses are patched with iron grates on doors and windows to keep out poachers. The palm trees, *Washingtonia filifera*, here in the beginning, still watch it all."

This book is a double pleasure. The photographs by artist Lewis deSoto are stunning. His essays are deeply personal and moving. The landscapes of the Inland Empire were once the site of orchards and vineyards. They are now marred by decades of environmental degradation which is clearly visible in a lot of the awe inspiring photographs. For the young artist, who is member of the local Cahuilla tribe, there was ill health and isolation, but there was also the exuberance of youthful freedom and escape that a drivers license and a cool car provided. The camera became a companion on long car rides then, and art a way of leaving his youth behind. As he revisits the changed landscapes of his youth it becomes clear that the Empire stayed with him and deeply informed his work. Both the photographs and the essays made me want to see and read a lot more!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Empire: Photographs and Essays by Lewis deSoto
The Suppressed History of America: The Murder of Meriwether Lewis and the Mysterious Discoveries of the Lewis and Clark Expedition
Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West: Meriwether Lewis
Thomas Jefferson and the Opening The Essential Lewis and Clark (Lewis & Clark Expedition)

The Journals of Lewis and Clark (Lewis & Clark Expedition) How to Draw Realistic Pencil Portraits: 10 Simple Steps to Draw People and Faces from Photographs (How to Draw Faces, Drawing Faces, Drawing People, ... from Photographs, Drawing from Photographs) Consider the Lobster and Other Essays (Selected Essays) Why Tango: Essays on learning, dancing and living tango argentino (Tango Essays Book 1) Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism (American Empire Project) The Romans: From Village to Empire: A History of Rome from Earliest Times to the End of the Western Empire FBA: FBA Blackbook: Everything You Need To Know to Start Your Business Empire (Empire, Super Easy Step by Step Guide, Insider FBA Secrets) Affiliate Marketing: Develop An Online Business Empire from Selling Other Peoples Products (Affiliate Marketing 101, Affiliate Marketing Empire) PASSIVE INCOME: Develop A Passive Income Empire - Complete Beginners Guide To Building Riches Through Multiple Streams (Multiple Streams, Passive Income Riches, E-commerce Empire) Shooting from the Hip: Photographs and Essays Photographs Not Taken: A Collection of Photographers' Essays Coca-Cola Its Vehicles in Photographs 1930-1969: Photographs from the Archives Department of the Coca-Cola Company (Iconografix Photo Archive Series) Oceans of Wine: Madeira and the Emergence of American Trade and Taste (The Lewis Walpole Series in Eighteenth-Century Culture and History) Lewis and Clark and Me: A Dog's Tale C.S. Lewis and the Arts: Creativity in the Shadowlands The View from the Back of the Band: The Life and Music of Mel Lewis (North Texas Lives of Musician Series)

[Dmca](#)