Witness in Our Time: Working Lives of Documentary Photographers

By Ken Light, Kerry Tremain,

Smithsonian Books September 2000, 2000. Trade Paperback. Book Condition: New. Documentary photographers explore the crucial issues and events of our time. Building on the traditions and passions of their predecessors, they are devising new strategies to address the obstacles and opportunities created by rapid media changes and intensified cross-cultural contact. Witness in Our Time traces the recent history of social documentary photography in the words of twenty-two of the genre's best photographers, editors, and curators, showing that the profession remains vital, innovative, and committed to social change. Several of the photographers narrate dramatic personal odysseys. Eugene Richards discusses the balance between too much and too little empathy in talking to twelve-year-old prostitutes while covering a drug-ravaged Brooklyn neighborhood. For Peter Magubane, a black South African who risked his life to document apartheid, the five years he was banned from working were more painful than nineteen months of beatings and solitary confinement. Donna Ferrato, who began photographing domestic violence while working on a story about love for Japanese Playboy, shows how her photographs have tangibly helped the victims. Known for photographing the uncovered graves of murdered American nuns in El Salvador, Susan Meiselas describes a new website that celebrates the history...

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Reviews

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