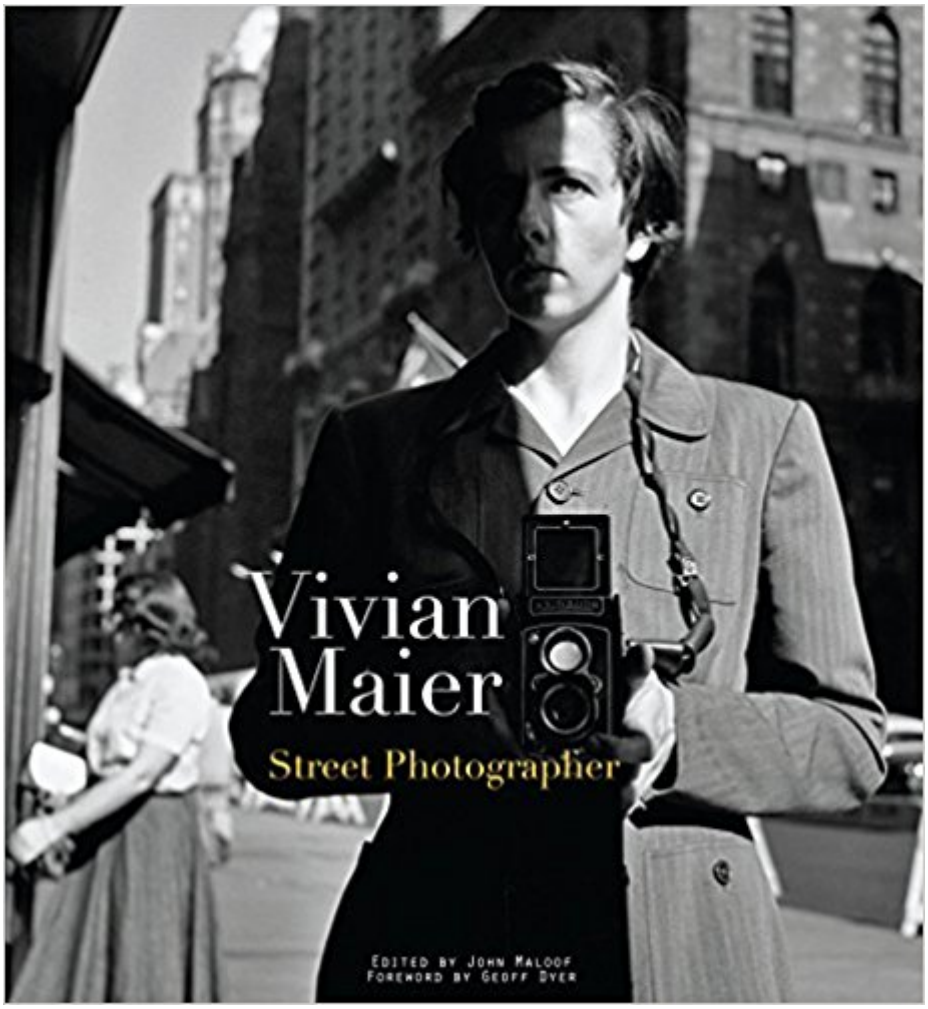
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Vivian Maier: Street Photographer



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Synopsis

Please note that all blank pages in the book were chosen as part of the design by the publisher.A good street photographer must be possessed of many talents: an eye for detail, light, and composition; impeccable timing; a populist or humanitarian outlook; and a tireless ability to constantly shoot, shoot, shoot, shoot and never miss a moment. It is hard enough to find thesequalities in trained photographers with the benefit of schooling and mentors and a community of fellow artists and aficionados supporting and rewarding their efforts. It is incredibly rare to find it in someone with no formal training and no network of peers.Yet Vivian Maier is all of these things, a professional nanny, who from the 1950s until the 1990s took over 100,000 photographs worldwideÃ¢â ¬â •from France to New York City to Chicago and dozens of other countriesÃ¢â ¬â •and yet showed the results to no one. The photos are amazing both for the breadth of the work and for the high quality of the humorous, moving, beautiful, and raw images of all facets of city life in AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s post-war golden age.It wasnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t until local historian John Maloof purchased a box of MaierÃ¢â ¬â„¢s negatives from a Chicago auction house and began collecting and championing her marvelous work just a few years ago that any of it saw the light of day. Presented here for the first time in print, Vivian Maier: Street Photographer collects the best of her incredible, unseen body of work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Maloof's documentary, Finding Vivian Maier,Ã Â was nominated for a 2015 Academy

Award!"Her work alternately brings to mind Lisette Model, Leon Levinstein, Harry Callahan, Garry Winogrand, Weegee, Helen Levitt and Robert Frank. But the uncracked nut at the core of her mystery is this: Why didn't Vivian Maier show anyone her pictures?"-Wall Street Journal"Saved from obscurity, the work of an unknown street photographer is, at last, coming out of the shadows."-Anthony Mason, CBS News"An unassuming Chicago baby sitter named Vivian Maier was one of the pioneers of street photography.Ã Â But for 60 years, nobody knew it."-The New York Times Style MagazineÃ¢â ¬Å“An undiscovered artist whose photography is now being compared to the giants, a reclusive woman who, in death, is attracting the kind of attention and acclaim she would have shunned in life.Ã¢â ¬Â• -The Huffington Post "Show-cased in the new book Vivian Maier: Street Photographer, out this month from powerHouse-rivet the viewer with the extreme vulnerability of her subjects."-Vanity Fair"[Maier] is a gifted visual thinking with a strong sense of self. Through [her] lens, self-shadows and window reflections are deftly composed more about context than the figure at the center"-American Photo"A combination of straight forward portraits, mirrored reflections and abstract self-portrayals, the collection...attempts to put a face to the name that's most recently captured the photography world's attention" -The Huffington Post

There is still very little known about the life of Vivian Maier. What is known is that she was born in New York in 1926 and worked as a nanny for a family on ChicagoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s North Shore during the 50s and 60s. Seemingly without a family of her own, the children she cared for eventually acted as caregivers for Maier herself in the autumn of her life. She took hundreds of thousands of photographs in her lifetime, but never shared them with anyone. Maier lost possession of her art when her storage locker was sold off for non-payment. She passed away in 2009 at the age of 83.John Maloof is an author and street photographer involved in historic preservation of ChicagoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Northwest Side. He discovered the first negatives of Vivian MaierÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work in 2007 while compiling a book about the history of the neighborhood where he grew up.Geoff DyerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s books include But Beautiful (Picador, 2009), Yoga For People Who CanÃ¢â ¬â„¢t Be Bothered To Do It (Vintage, 2004), The Ongoing Moment (Vintage, 2007) winner of the ICP Infinity Award for writing on photography, the novels Paris Trance (Picador, 2010) and Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi (Vintage, 2010), and a collection of essays, Otherwise Known as the Human Condition (Graywolf Press, 2011).

I was interested in this book when I read the announcement and for the price I couldn't leave it. Today it arrived and tonight I finally had the time to have a good look at the pictures.Vivian's story is

explained elsewhere, so I won't repeat it. I'll just give my impressions of the book.All pictures appear to be taken with the Rolleiflex, giving square pictures. All pictures have the same size and similar toning, which gives a great consistency throughout the book. The pictures themselves show everyday scenes from a long time ago, from all parts of society. You'll find old people, young kids, homeless people, rich folk, men and women and many different scenes. From the pictures I gather that her style was very unobtrusive, just letting the stories unravel in front of her eyes (and lens) and firing the shutter at the right time. There are quite a few pictures where you see people looking at the camera, but many more where she seems to be a passive observer.What I love about this book is that the images come across as totally unpretentious, void of the "artsy" side some photographers appear to want to develop. Wonderful, if there's a second book coming out, I can't wait to pre-order it.The paper and print quality is pretty decent for the price, although some pictures had tiny dots where they shouldn't be. Probably due to the price constraint. It's printed in China, which pushes the price down too I guess. Nothing bad, again, the prints are still very nice and I have more expensive books in my collection that are worse in terms of quality. Don't let this hold you back in buying the book. has a great return policy anyway.

Vivian Maier's work is outstanding. I have spent many hours admiring and absorbing her images. My low rating of this Kindle version of the book is because I was expecting a book to read about Vivian Maier and this book is just a collection of images ... As a collection of images I do not feel it suites the kindle format. I am a heavy kindle user devouring several electronic books a week; many on technical aspects of photography and multimedia. I love the instant access and convenience of kindle. But in my opinion this book needs to be physical, solid, hard covered, and at least A4 sized. I will look for it in that format and buy it again when I find it. I feel it is a solid and powerful statement that needs to be in print.

What can I say? OK, how about this... I love her photography, and her story (watch the documentary - it's very well done)... and the truth is I simply wish she was still alive, or had been alive when here work was "discovered" - she deserved to know the joy she brought to people, and perhaps would have benefitted from receiving our love, or a connection... but maybe it was the lack of those things that made her special - I'm not going to get that deep... get the book - it's beautiful.

In 1996 I was helping my friend at his stall in the Evanston Farmers Market in Evanston Illinois. The market was on Sat. morning, I would see this very odd woman,Vivian Maier. I had no idea who she

was or what she did however she was a standout in the crowd, very different in dress and bearing. She looked like a spy from a 1940’s B noir movie. When she came to our stall I always wanted to make a photograph of her. I am a street photographer however she had an aura and I didn’t want to mess with her.She once asked me if something was wrong I didn’t know what to say. Get the Book you will not be sorry.

Never heard of her before I saw this book on . It’s on my Kindle app and the pix come through sharp. Maier had an eye for the fascinating amidst the ordinary. Much like a few of Arbus’s photos. Actually I don’t think I had seen the term "street photography in print until I saw this on . Only issue is that the print on the few pages of text up front is extremely small and hard, at best, to read. Part of my reason for getting the book was that Geoff Dyer wrote a preface (and if you haven’t read The Ongoing Moment& by Geoff Dyer, order it this second..The Ongoing MomentÃ Â). I couldn’t increase the font size in the Maier book and got a bit of a headache trying to read it. Worth the pain, though.

Great photos, great story whatever others think of John Maloof. I think he did good to bring these photos to publication. Just wish Vivian had gotten the recognition she deserved when alive

I absolutely love Vivian Maier’s photographs. Unfortunately the book is printed very poorly by Asia Pacific Offset in China chosen by powerHouse Book. The halftoning pattern interacts with the original grain of the print or negative to create an ugly effect. The sepia toning is overdone and nauseating. But the biggest problem has to do with the depth of blacks and shadows. I measured the deepest black in most images at a density of 1.6, which isn’t really black, more like coffee with cream. What a pitty.EDIT: increased rating in light of the discussion associated with this review and to take into account the price of the book. The quality is ok for a $26 book but is obviously not the quality found in a $100 book.

This book is really awesome. Saw the documentary on Netflix and wow was just blown away by this odd woman’s talent. Very weird story. Better off seeing the documentary first. The blank pages were a bit annoying. I get it - artistic placement and all, but I wanted as many photos as I could get so it was annoying to have blank pages in there. Anyway, loved it so much bought one extra for my brother for his birthday.

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