



THE EDGE OF VISION ***The Rise of Abstraction in Photography***

WRITTEN AND EDITED BY LYLE REXER

From the beginning, abstraction has been intrinsic to photography, and its persistent popularity reveals much about the medium. *The Edge of Vision: The Rise of Abstraction in Photography* (Aperture, May 2009) is the first book in English to document this phenomenon and to put it into historical context, while also examining the diverse approaches thriving within contemporary photography.

Author Lyle Rexer examines abstraction at pivotal moments, starting with the inception of photography, when many of its pioneers believed the camera might reveal other aspects of reality. *The Edge of Vision* traces subsequent explorations—from the Photo Secessionists who emphasized process and emotional expression over observed reality, to Modernist and Surrealist experiments. In the decades to follow, in particular from the 1940s through the 1980s, a multitude of photographers—Edward Weston, Aaron Siskind, and Barbara Kasten, among them—took up abstraction from a variety of positions. Finally, Rexer explores the influence the history of abstraction exerts on contemporary thinking about the medium. Many contemporary artists—most prominently Silvio Wolf, Marco Breuer, and Ellen Carey—reject photography’s documentary dimension in favor of other possibilities, somewhere between painting and sculpture, that include the manipulation of process and printing.



In addition to Rexer's engagingly written and richly illustrated history, this volume includes a selection of primary texts by and/or interviews with: Walead Beshty, Mel Bochner, Alvin Langdon Coborn, James Elkins, Gottfried Jäger, László Moholy-Nagy, Roger Newton, Man Ray, Henry Holmes Smith, Frederick Sommer, Edward Steichen, Henry Fox Talbot, Lynne Tillman, James Welling, and Silvio Wolf.

LYLE REXER (editor) is a New York-based independent writer and critic. His previous books include *Photography's Antiquarian Avant-Garde* (2002) and *How to Look at Outsider Art* (2005); he contributed an interview with Chuck Close and Bob Holman to *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something* (Aperture, 2006)

Featured artists include: Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Emilio Amero, Bill Armstrong, Eugène Atget, Anna Atkins, Carel Balth, Lewis Baltz, Geraldo de Barros, Uta Barth, Herbert Bayer, Ottavio Bèrard, Walead Beshty, Karl Blossfeldt, Mel Bochner, Anton Giulio Bragaglia, Marco Breuer, Adam Broomberg & Oliver Chanarin, Richard Caldicott, Harry Callahan, Julia Margaret Cameron, Ellen Carey, Roger Catherineau, Alvin Langdon Coburn, Barbara Crane, Louis Darget, Suzanne Doppelt, John William Draper, Frantisek Drtikol, Garry Fabian Miller, Roger Fenton, Roland Fischer, Robbert Flick, Michael Flomen, Jaromír Funke, Manuel Geerinck, Shirine Gill, Miroslav Hák, Nanna Hänninen, Robert Heinecken, Keld Helmer-Petersen, Lotte Jacobi, Gottfried Jäger, Kenneth Josephson, Donald Judd, Barbara Katsen, Idris Khan, Atta Kim, Seth Lambert, Ida Lansky, Gustave le Gray, Charles Lindsay, el Lissitzky, Kasimir Malevich, Man Ray, Edward Mapplethorpe, Etienne-Jules Marey, Gordon Matta-Clark, Chris McCaw, Ralph Eugene Meatyard, Ray K. Metzker, László Moholy-Nagy, Barbara Morgan, Iwata Nakayama, Roger Newton, Susan Rankaitis, Robert Rauschenberg, Jaroslav Rössler, Jack Sal, Mikko Sinervo, Aaron Siskind, Henry Holmes Smith, Frederick Sommer, Nicki Stager, Edward Steichen, Alfred Steiglitz, Clarence H. White, Paul Strand, August Strindberg, William Henry Fox Talbot, Edmund Teske, Wolfgang Tillmans, Shomei Tomatsu, Penelope Umbrico, James Welling, Randy West, Edward Weston, Minor White, Silvio Wolf, Ilan Wolff, and Wols.

Related Exhibition and Events:

Accompanying Exhibition on View: May 15–9, 2009
Edge of Vision: Abstraction in Contemporary Photography
Aperture Gallery

Panel Discussion at New York Photo Festival:
Friday, May 15, 5:00 pm
St. Anne's Warehouse

Opening Reception with Live DJ:
Saturday, May 16, 7:00–10:00 pm
Aperture Gallery

Talk and Book Signing with Lyle Rexer:
Tuesday, June 16, 6:30 pm
Aperture Gallery

Panel Discussion:
Tuesday, July 8, 2009
The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

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Aperture—located in New York’s Chelsea art district—is a world-renowned non-profit publisher and exhibition space dedicated to promoting photography in all its forms. Aperture was founded in 1952 by photographers Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Barbara Morgan, and Minor White; historian Beaumont Newhall; and writer/curator Nancy Newhall, among others. These visionaries created a new quarterly periodical, *Aperture* magazine, to foster both the development and the appreciation of the photographic medium and its practitioners. In the 1960s, Aperture expanded to include the publication of books (over five hundred to date) that comprise one of the most comprehensive and innovative libraries in the history of photography and art. Aperture’s programs now include artist lectures and panel discussions, limited-edition photographs, and traveling exhibitions that show at major museums and arts institutions in the U.S. and internationally.

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