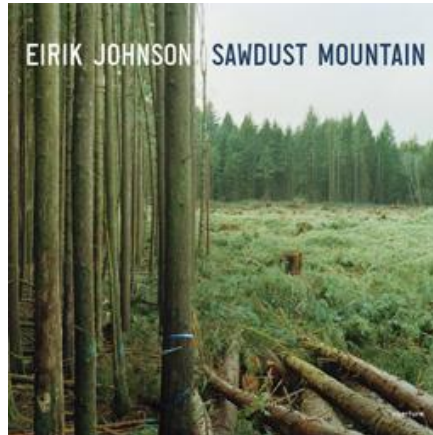




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PRESS RELEASE



SAWDUST MOUNTAIN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY EIRIK JOHNSON

Essay by Tess Gallagher; Poem by David Guterson

Accompanying Exhibition, *Sawdust Mountain*, on view at:

G. Gibson Gallery, Seattle, April 23–May 30, 2009, Reception: May 7, 6:00–8:00 pm

Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, May 21–June 27, 2009

Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, October 24, 2009–January 10, 2010

A culmination of four years photographing throughout Oregon, Washington, and Northern California, Eirik Johnson's *Sawdust Mountain* (Aperture, May 2009) focuses on the tenuous relationship between industries reliant upon natural resources and the communities they support. Timber and salmon are the bedrock of a regional Northwest identity, but the environmental impact of these industries has been increasingly at odds with the contemporary ideal of sustainability. In this, his second book, Eirik Johnson reveals a landscape imbued with an uncertain future—no longer the region of boomtowns built upon the riches of massive old growth forests.

Johnson, a Seattle native, describes his photographs as “a melancholy love letter of sorts, my own personal ramblings.” Through this poetic approach, *Sawdust Mountain* records a region affected by historic economic complexities and, by extension, aspects of our fraught relationship with the environment in the twenty-first century.



EIRIK JOHNSON (born in Seattle, 1974) is an assistant professor of photography at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, George Eastman House, and Aperture Gallery. His first book, *Borderlands*, was awarded the Santa Fe Prize for Photography in 2005.

TESS GALLAGHER (essay) is the author of fifteen books, including *Moon Crossing Bridge*, poetic elegies to her late husband Raymond Carver.

DAVID GUTERSON (poem) was born in Seattle in 1956. His novel, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, won the 1995 PEN/Faulkner Award.

Related Events:

Artist's Talk and Book Signing:
Friday, May 8, 2009
PhotoAlliance at The Art Institute, San Francisco

Artist's Talk and Book Signing with Tess Gallagher:
Saturday, May 9, 2:00 pm
Elliot Bay Bookstore

Artist's Talk and Book Signing:
Tuesday, May 27, 6:30 pm
Aperture Foundation

11 x 11 in. (27.9 x 27.9 cm)
144 pages
70 four-color images
Hardcover
ISBN 978-1-59711-091-4
\$50.00; £27.50
May 2009

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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