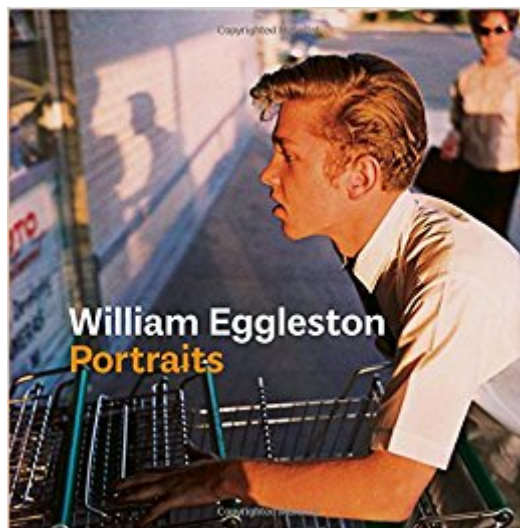


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# William Eggleston Portraits



## Synopsis

“So many people take those simple snapshots of life, but there’s something about Eggleston that no one can match.” • Sofia Coppola The eminent American photographer William Eggleston (b. 1939) was a pioneer in exploring the artistic potential of color photography. Eggleston made a name for himself with his eccentric, unexpected compositions of everyday life that were nonetheless rife with implied narrative, elevating the commonplace to art. This sumptuously illustrated book features Eggleston’s masterful portraits, including many familiar and beloved images as well as some previously unseen photographs from his long and productive career. Many of Eggleston’s poetic photographs portray life in his home state of Tennessee, and the people he encountered there. Eggleston frequented the 1970s Memphis club scene, where he met, befriended, and photographed musicians such as fellow Southerners Alex Chilton and Ike Turner. He also photographed celebrities including Dennis Hopper, Walter Hopps, and Eudora Welty, and became a fixture of Andy Warhol’s Factory scene, dating the Warhol protégé Viva. Over the past half century, he has created a powerful and enduring body of work featuring friends and family, musicians, artists, and strangers. In addition to the lavish reproductions of Eggleston’s portraits, this volume includes an essay and chronology, plus an interview with Eggleston and his close family members that gives new insights into his images and artistic process.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Eggleston never diminishes what he sees but somehow enlarges both the momentous and the trivial. . . . Each photograph is freighted with untold stories." — Adrian Searle, *Guardian* "The abundance of recent collections of Eggleston's work does not diminish the allure of this one. . . . Some of the pictures are extremely well known . . . others are less so: page after page of riveting, often untitled character studies. . . . If you're curious about Eggleston . . . this book is not a bad place to start." — Luc Sante, *New York Times Book Review* ("Top Photography Books") "[Eggleston] brings his quirky and discerning eye to portraiture." — Jack Crager, *American Photo* ("Best Photography Books") "Intimate and unguarded. . . . Eggleston's photographs keep you looking and guessing." — Ann Hermes, *Christian Science Monitor* "[Eggleston] brings a discerning eye to portraiture." — Jack Crager, *American Photo* ("Best Photography Books of the Year");

This sumptuously illustrated catalogue is the first comprehensive study devoted to the snapshot-style portrait photographs of William Eggleston, spanning his entire career from the 1960s to the present day.

Eggleston's work always hangs out at the edge of "Oh, Mom took a snap accidentally with the Polaroid" and absolute brilliance. You have to look at the photos long and hard, examining the shadows and lines, before you can see what he's managed to capture. The casual, almost throwaway family photo nature of his work soon fades, however, as you begin to see and dissect the composition of his work. He doesn't parody family photos, but he does take the idea out of the family album and into the gallery.

The best images come straight from the Guide. The print quality is excellent and on a larger format than the Guide. The commentary and the interview at the end were helpful.

Initially, I struggled with Eggleston, but his work started to grow on me over time. This book is a very good collection of his work both black and white as well as color that really gave me an in-depth view of his work through a lens of "portrait". I found a few new favorites. I'll continue to study this one.

I am a serious Eggleston fan, many of the images in this book were familiar, some were new to me. The colors are excellent in their reproduction and printing. The foreword essay is interesting and

should spark interest in Eggleston (not that he cares), but others do care.

A beautiful book. Eggleston has an elegant eye for formal structure, sublime light and finding the magic in the everyday routine.

Amazing photos, great quality book

The backstories and identities of the people in the pictures made the already great pictures more interesting

wonderful

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