



Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light

By Sarah Hermanson Meister

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Bill Brandt was the preeminent British photographer of the twentieth century, a founding father of photography's modernist tradition whose half-century-long career defies neat categorization. This publication presents the photographer's entire oeuvre, with special emphasis on his investigation of English life in the 1930s and his innovative late nudes. The Museum of Modern Art has been exhibiting and collecting Brandt's photographs since the late 1940s, and has recently more than doubled its collection of vintage prints of his work, which forms the core of this selection. An essay by Sarah Hermanson Meister, Curator in the Department of Photography at MoMA, sets the artist's life and work in the context of twentieth-century photographic history. With rich duotone illustrations that highlight the special characteristics of Brandt's prints, this volume is an invaluable resource to students and scholars alike. Lee Ann Daffner, the Museum's Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Conservator of Photographs, contributes an illustrated glossary of Brandt's retouching techniques, enhancing the appreciation of Brandt's printing processes. The book also includes a generously illustrated appendix of Brandt's published photo-stories during the Second World War.

Bill Brandt (1904–1983) moved to London from Germany in 1934 and quickly began his investigation of British society, resulting in what would become his signature publications: *The English at Home* (1936) and *A Night in London* (1938). He continued to photograph in London throughout World War II, contributing regularly to *Picture Post* and *Harper's Bazaar*. His postwar career expanded to include portraits and landscapes, and the celebrated series of nudes that remain his crowning achievement. His other major books include *Camera in London* (1948), *Literary Britain* (1951) and *Perspective of Nudes* (1961). Brandt died in London in 1983.

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Editorial Review

From Bookforum

Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light draws on MoMA's recently acquired cache of vintage photographs by the British prince of darkness. Perfectly set by designer Beverly Joel on pages whose 87/8 x 101/2" trim mimics the characteristic proportions of Brandt's photos, the reproductions, from superb tritone separations by Martin Senn, are a revelation. Familiar 1930s images yield new depth and detail, and the famous postwar nudes, especially those seen close-up on rocky beaches from the late 1950s, become luminous abstract sculptures. —Christopher Lyon

Review

In contrast to an alternate new book of Brandt's nudes, this volume shows his full range, including studies of working-class Londoners in the 1930s and surreal French landscapes in the 1950s. (Jack Crager *American Photo*)

British photographer Bill Brandt, who died in 1983, has been one of the most published of his generation. The bibliography is significant and the authors varied, but the reproductions of the images have remained largely the same - pictures of England's upper and lower classes, landscape, portraits (especially authors), and studies of the female nude. (C. Bunnell *Choice*)

This survey takes a long-overdue, in-depth look at one of the true giants of modern photography. (Howard Halle *Time Out Magazine*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Nancy Hedrick:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive at this point, people have to do something to make them survive, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a reserve your ability to survive improve then having chance to remain than other is high. For you who want to start reading any book, we give you this particular Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light book as basic and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Lilian Anderson:

Why? Because this Bill Brandt: Shadow and Light is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Nick Peoples:

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Lisa Loo:

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