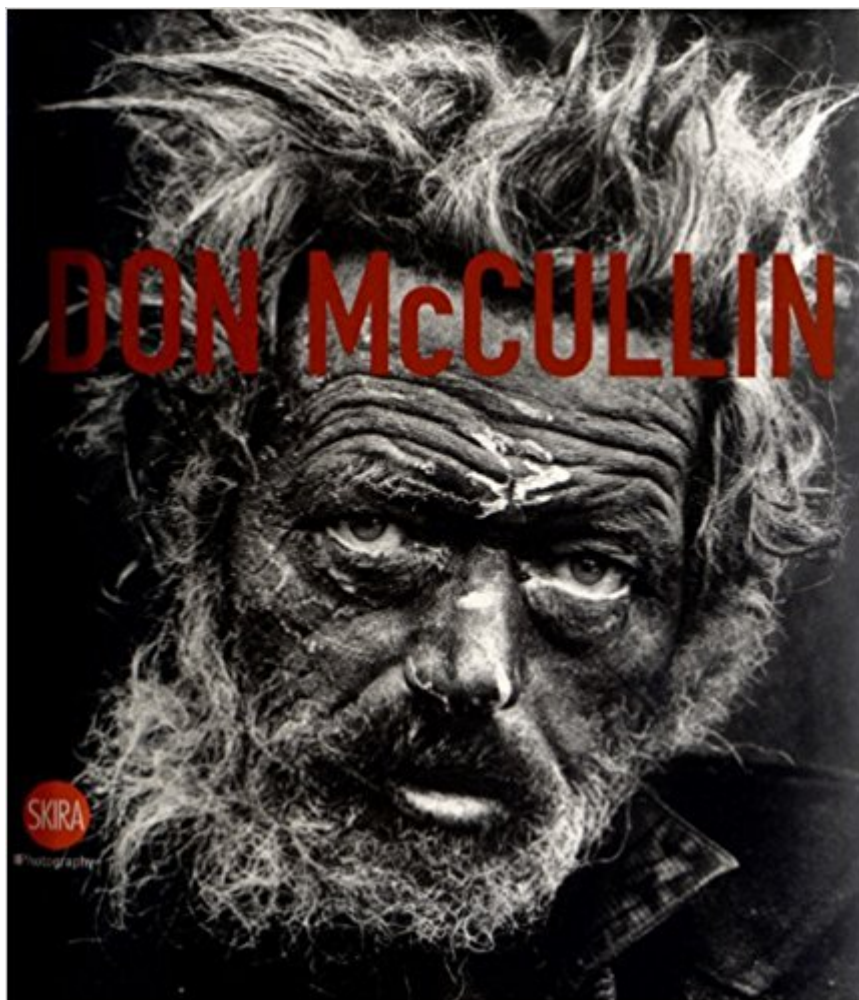


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Don McCullin: The Impossible Peace



Synopsis

An exhibition catalog that features an impressive retrospective, covering the last fifty years in chronological order. Don McCullin (born 1935, London) is one of the most important photographers of our time. For more than fifty years, his uncompromising black-and-white photographs have shaped our awareness and understanding of modern conflict and its consequences. His images tell the remarkable story of his life and work, including his most famous assignments in Berlin, Vietnam, Cambodia, Biafra, Bangladesh, and the Middle East. The Winner of the Warsaw Gold Medal and the World Press Photographer Award, he was awarded the ICP Cornell Capa Award in 2006. Key periods in McCullin's life, including his early experiences of evacuation and the Blitz, his commissions from Berlin in 1961 and Cyprus in 1964, and his most famous work for the Sunday Times are here explored alongside more recent projects with Christian Aid, his photographs of last tribes in the Omo River Valley, South Kenya, and Irian Jaya, New Guinea, and, in the last few years, those of still-life and English landscapes at his home in Somerset. A photographic journey across the ruins and landscapes of the boundaries of the Roman Empire completes the volume.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Skira; Bilingual edition (September 18, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 885721401X

ISBN-13: 978-8857214016

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 1.1 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #2,554,520 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #93 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Photography & Video > Black & White #1787 in Books > Arts & Photography >

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Customer Reviews

"His images made in conflict zones from Vietnam to Iraq poignantly capture human suffering; his landscapes convey awestruck loneliness." ~American Photo

Sandro Parmiggiani is an art historian and critic. He is the curator of hundreds of exhibitions in Italy

and abroad. Among the others, he published Michael Kenna: Images of the Seventh Days (Skira, 2011).

British photojournalist Don McCullin is famously known for his heavy, gritty, and dark images of war and urban turmoil. The reproductions within the pages of this photography book are of no exception as they were masterfully printed by McCullin himself in the wet-darkroom to reflect the despair he was feeling at the moment of capture. Photographed between 1958-2008, the images are mostly concentrated on the tragic consequences of war, human suffering, poverty, and famine unlike anything seen in today's heavily censored media. Also included, are architectural images and landscapes McCullin captured in his latter years after deciding he no longer wanted to document war. The purposefully moody and deep-toned images speak volumes into McCullin's wisdom as a photographer. They stir about emotions that cause one to reflect on the various aspects of the human condition. Although many of the images are disturbing, McCullin, with a keen eye, beautifully renders the subjects compassionately and respectfully. His careful compositions empathetically add a touch of gentleness to these unimaginable saturated moments of pain and strife. The images of the landscapes are just as dark and brooding. Although beautiful, in no way are they similar to the those that we as a society have grown accustomed to. They are flat and cold. Lifeless wonderments of loneliness representative of someone attempting to purge from their being the witnessing of five decades of mankind's unjust barbarity. In my opinion, this book is not depressing, inspirational, or uplifting as many have deemed McCullin's work. Nor does it aim to shock the viewer, although in many instances, I am sure that it will. I see this book as a harrowing account of the experiences of a photographer haunted by the aftermath of his life's story as reflected through the experiences of the lives of those he documented. It is indicative of a true humanitarian who made it his duty to reveal by his own eye-witness account a searing testimony of tremendous significance and importance. I recommend that you purchase, "The Impossible Peace", by Don McCullin as an exploration into this humble man's psyche and the world that he made his life-long career. Respectfully, Jamusu.

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