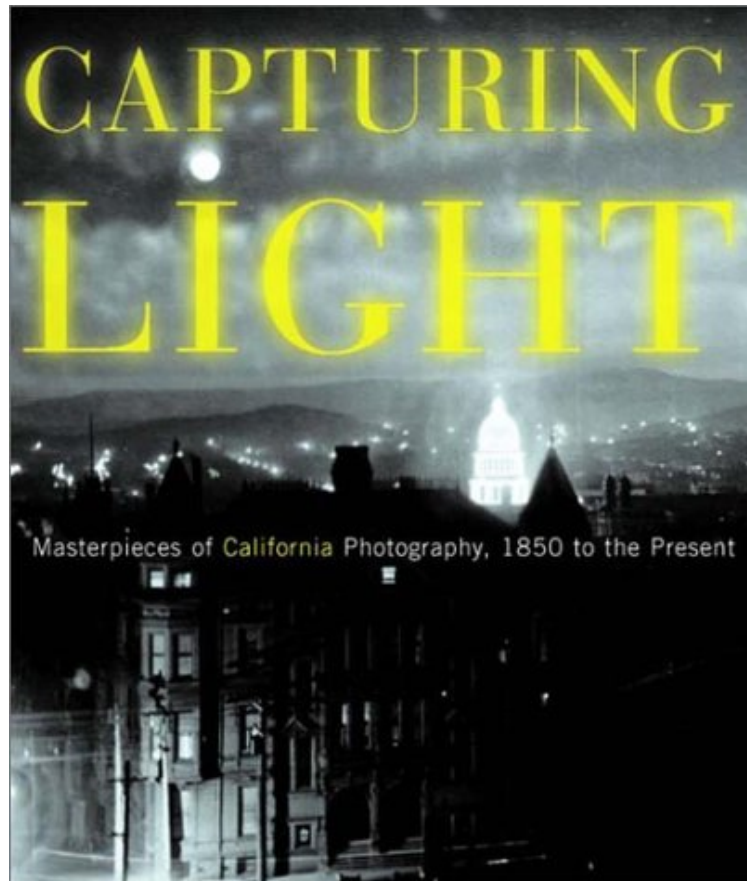


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Capturing Light: Masterpieces of California Photography, 1850-2000

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Hundreds of images, many never seen before, are used to illuminate the central role of California in the development of American photography. The story begins the daguerreotypes from the Gold Rush in 1850 and continues to the

contemporary works of the landscape artist Ansel Adams and the postmodern visions of David Hockney. Also included are glamorous Hollywood photographs.

From Library Journal This book accompanies an exhibit that opened in March 2001 at the Oakland Museum, where Johnson is curator of fine art photography. Arranged chronologically along with the photographs are essays by five well-known photohistorians and critics: Therese Thau Heyman (who built the photography collection at the Oakland Museum from the 1960s), Peter Palmquist, Naomi Rosenblum, Sally Stein, and Andy Grundberg. "Everything worth photographing is in California," observed Edward Weston, and most of the greatest American photographers made photographs here. Though resident photographers felt ignored by mainstream, East Coast aesthetic arbiters, even at the end of the 19th century they were producing work that made Stieglitz's circle seem conservative. This survey presents fine examples of every process and period, from the earliest daguerreotypes to the work of highly experimental contemporary photographers. Perhaps its greatest feature is its focus on less familiar practitioners and their work: early Chinese studios, Gustavus Fagerstein's Yosemite photographs of the 1880s, Willard Worden's turn-of-the-century San Francisco, Alma Lavenson's images of children and her garden, John Paul Edward's industrial views, and Catherine Wagner's documentation of American classrooms. Highly recommended for photography, California history, and American studies collections. Kathleen Collins, Bank of America Corporate Archives, San Francisco Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Drew Heath Johnson is curator of fine art photography at the Oakland Museum of California, a world-renowned institution devoted to the art, history, and natural science of the Golden State.