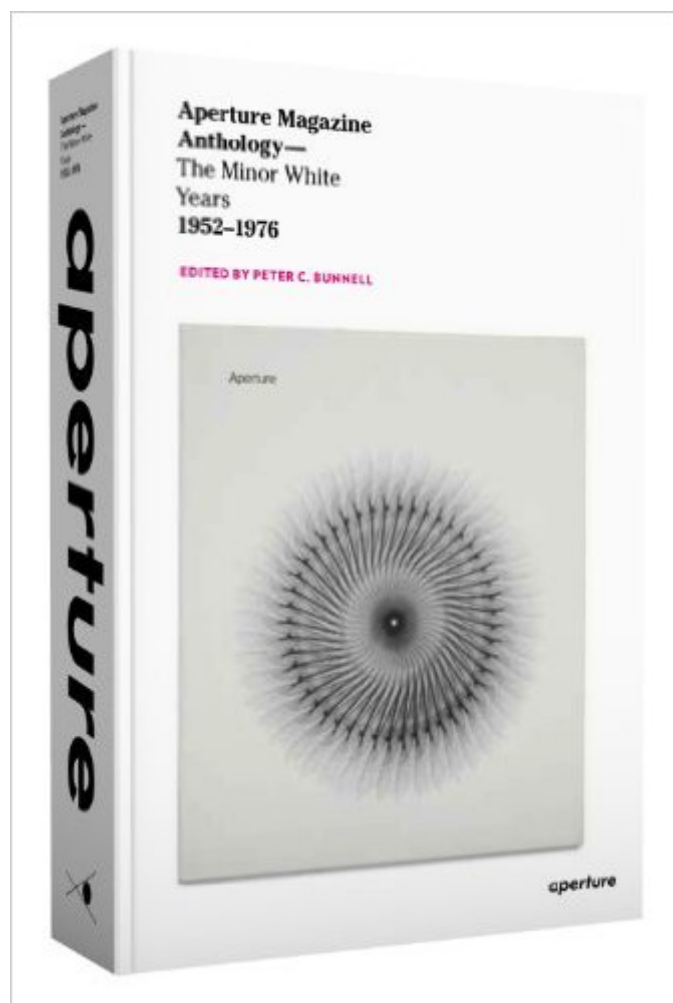


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Aperture Magazine Anthology: The Minor White Years, 1952-1976



Synopsis

Published on the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary, this is the first ever anthology of Aperture magazine. This long-awaited overview provides a selection of the best critical writing from the first 25 years of the magazine—the period spanning the tenure of cofounder and editor Minor White. Aperture was established in 1952 by a group of photographers, including Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Barbara Morgan and historian-curators Beaumont and Nancy Newhall. Their intention was to provide a forum in which photographers can talk straight to each other, discuss the problems that face photography as profession an art, share their experiences, comment on what goes on, descry the new potentials. With its far-ranging interests in diverse photographic styles, myriad themes and subjects (including a strong streak of spirituality in diverse forms) and an adventurous commitment to a broad international range, Aperture has had a profound impact on the course of fine-art photography. The texts and visuals in this anthology were selected by Peter C. Bunnell, White's protégé and an early member of the Aperture staff, who went on to become a major force in photography as an influential writer, curator and professor. Several articles are reproduced in facsimile, and the publication is enlivened throughout by other features, including a portfolio of exceptional covers, as well as a selection of the colophons (short statements or quotes) that appeared at the front of each magazine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book edited by Peter Bunnell - Princeton. It is not a picture history but rather focuses on articles in

Aperture during the Minor White years. They trace the history of photographic thought well and, as you would expect of people who are expert and insightful, the messages frequently still hold today. Well worth reading on several levels, especially for the thinking photographer or critic.

This beautifully edited anthology, offers an interesting "Preface" by the editor, Peter C. Bunnell (a photography historian who worked with and personally knew Minor White for many years). Additional content includes a revealing & in-depth interview with Mr. Bunnell by Diana C. Stoll, the senior editor of "Aperture" magazine at the time of publication. Arranged in chronological order from "Aperture"'s beginnings, in 1952, through 1976, at 455 pages, this is a hefty book, full of incredibly interesting & well-written articles that address topics of concern about all aspects of photography during those years. The book, taking actual articles as they appeared in the magazine (with some editing), offers a wonderful in-depth coverage of how these important and early renowned photographers, who began the magazine, traveled philosophically and professionally through time in attempting to give dignity and seriousness to photography as an art form--something that was sorely needed in those early years, as photography was becoming more visible to the public eye. What I found to be especially valuable in reading this excellent book is the evolution of thought on all aspects of photography--from the use of the "miniature" camera (35 mm format), to photography as an art, to exhibitions, to the evaluation of photographs--and on and on. Although this book offers beautifully rendered reproductions of the photographs appearing on all of the covers of "Aperture" magazine for 25 years, along with some examples of work by the magazine founders, this is not a "picture book" of photography--instead it offers much on the thought & practice of photography. Highly recommended to anyone interested in the history of the formative years of American photography.

I have a full collection of Aperture magazine starting in the seventies (when I started to photograph), so was missing this part of the history of Aperture. Very satisfied though I expected more photographs from those numbers.

This is a nice book with heavy-weight pages in a somewhat small format. Frankly the format should have been a bit larger. Author Bunnell clearly states that the text is from his perspective. His relationship to Minor White was close so he writes from knowledge. The book includes adequate illustrations. There is a lot of interest in this book - about White and about the evolution of Aperture in his hands.

Nicely done book covering some of the articles and a minimal amount of images from the magazines first 24 years (1952 - 1976), known as the Minor White Years. My only gripe would be that it is difficult, if not impossible to view/read each issue in its entirety. With this sort of "ground-breaking" discourse it is important for it to be available for not only historical purposes, but for aesthetic purposes as well. Thus far its accessibility is very limited.

Seems like "the first ever anthology of Aperture magazine" would be 'Photography Past Forward: Aperture at 50' because it's basically "excerpts from Aperture issues 1952-2002" (239 pp., published by Aperture, 2002). I'm sure this is a fine book too, but the promotional description seems a bit overstated.

Just a look at the list of contributors is fantastic. Adams, Callahan, Feininger, Hattersley, Lange, Siegal, Siskind, Szarkowski and White and others.

I expected more photographs from the magazine, but it's ok with the reproduction of the original pages and the original texts.

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