



Robert Adams: The New West

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Robert Adams: The New West From Steidl Dap

The open American West is nearly gone. A longstanding classic of photobook publishing, *The New West* is a photographic essay about what came to fill it?freeways, tract homes, low-rise business buildings and signs. In five sequences of pictures taken along the front wall of the Colorado Rocky Mountains, Robert Adams has documented a representative sampling of the whole suburban Southwest. The views have a double power. At first they shock; normally we try to forget the commercial squalor they depict. Slowly, however, they reveal aspects of the geography?the shape of the land itself, for example?that are beyond man's harm. Adams has written that "all land, no matter what has happened to it, has over it a grace, an absolutely persistent beauty," and the photographs show this. Originally published in 1974, *The New West* is now regarded as a classic, standing alongside Walker Evans' *American Photographs* and Robert Frank's *The Americans* in the pantheon of landmark volumes of photography exploring American culture and society. This beautiful new edition marks the iconic book's fortieth anniversary and includes new scans.

Robert Adams (born 1937) has photographed the geography of the American West for over 40 years. His work has been widely exhibited both in Europe and the United States, including in the seminal 1975 exhibition *New Topographics: Photographs of a Man-Altered Landscape*. He has over 40 publications and is a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, the Spectrum International Prize for Photography, the Hasselblad Award, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize.



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Editorial Review

Review

There is an inherent, inescapable allure, stemming from the photographer's aptitude for composition and ability to encapsulate the atmospheric quality of light so unique to the area... Through his exceptionally executed, deeply poetic works, we are reminded that we – with our limited life spans and endless aspirations – pale in comparison to the longstanding landscapes that surround us. (Daisy Woodward *AnOther Magazine*)

Robert Adams, in his landmark 1974 collection "The New West," now reissued in a gorgeous edition by Steidl, is in many ways [Timothy] O'Sullivan's truest heir. (Michael Robbins *The Chicago Tribune*)

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