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Detroit: Unbroken Down



Synopsis

Dave Jordano returned to his hometown of Detroit to document the people who still live in what has become one of the country's most economically challenging cities. Against a backdrop of mass abandonment through years of white flight, unemployment hovering at almost three times the national average, city services cut to the bone, a real estate collapse of massive proportions, and ultimately filing the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, Jordano searches for the hope and perseverance of those who have had to endure the hardship of living in a post-industrial city that has fallen on the hardest of times. From the lower Southeast Side where urban renewal and government programs slowly became the benchmark of civic failure, to the dwindling enclaves of neighborhoods like Delray and Poletown (once blue-collar neighborhoods that have all but vanished), Jordano seeks to dispel the popular myth perpetrated through the media that Detroit is an empty wasteland devoid of people. He encounters resolute individuals determined to make this city a place to live, from a homeless man who decided to build his own one-room structure on an abandoned industrial lot because he was tired of sleeping on public benches, to a group of squatters who repurposed long-abandoned houses on a street called Goldengate. Jordano discovers and rebroadcasts a message of hope and endurance to an otherwise greatly misunderstood and misrepresented city. Detroit: Unbroken Down is not a document solely about what's been destroyed, but even more critically, about all that has been left behind and those who remain to cope with it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Dave Jordano's 40 years of walking the streets of his hometown of Detroit have inspired a masterful body of work that explores a once vibrant city and its residents who have learned how to cope with change." --Lenscratch As seen on: The Washington Post Fused A photo-eye Photobook of the Day

Dave Jordano was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1948. He received a BFA in photography from the College for Creative Studies in 1974. In 1977 he established a successful commercial photography studio in Chicago, shooting major print campaigns for national advertising agencies. Jordano has exhibited nationally and internationally and his work is included in the permanent collection of several private, corporate, and museum institutions, most notably the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; the Museum of Fine Arts Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts Houston; the Detroit Institute of Arts; the Detroit Historical Museum; The Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, Evanston; the Harris Bank Collection; and the Federal Reserve Bank.

Product was as advertised and arrived quickly....

More than met my expectations. It is a successful reinterpretation of a great photographic tradition.

The photos in this book are wonderful; large, with beautiful colors, and the printing process is terrific. Although we lived in (the city of) Detroit for nearly 3 years (we left 7 1/2 years ago), anyone with a passion for the subject matter would surely be interested in this book. Dave Jordano is a really good photographer and the photos are rather compelling.

I admire the photos that Dave Jordano made of Detroit. They bring back many memories of my home town. "Detroit, as I knew it", www.efn.org/~hkrieger/detroit.htm

Needed more information on the lives of the people that were photographed

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