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Desert To Dream: A Decade Of Burning Man Photography



Synopsis

Barbara Traub captures an expansive desert of everything but normality where monstrous beings of all shapes, colors and sizes congregate each year with contraptions that challenge everyday familiarity. "Sidelines Online" The event is more than the sum of its art cars, kinetic sculptures or suntanned bodies clad in body paint and glitter (and sometimes not much else). "Wired" Attended by 20 people on a San Francisco beach in 1986, the "Burning Man" festival has mushroomed into a desert pilgrimage for 40,000 people annually. For one week, Burning Man qualifies as Nevada's fifth-largest city, and climaxes on Labor Day weekend with the burning of four-story tall wooden "man." This is an unprecedented photographic record of an evolving decade of Burning Man, from its infancy as a performance art exhibit to its explosion as a pop culture destination. Photographer Barbara Traub captures the sacred and profane, from inspired costumes to otherworldly artifacts that defy convention. Traub describes the dynamic scenes along with contributions from filmmaker Les Blank, Burning Man founder Larry Harvey, and poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Now a global network fueled by the Internet, Burning Man is the twenty-first century's ultimate celebration of the human imagination. Barbara Traub is a critically acclaimed photographer residing in San Francisco, California. Her art has exhibited internationally, and her Burning Man photographs have appeared in *Wired*, *Spiegel Online*, *Photo District News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *New Age*. Chief photographer for *HardWired's* book *Burning Man*, she curated *Photo SF's* 2004 "Art of Burning Man" gallery.

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Customer Reviews

Traub presents 10 years' worth of lavish color photography on the annual counterculture festival, Burning Man. The first Burning Man was held on a San Francisco beach and attended by a couple dozen people. Today it takes place in Nevada's Black Rock Desert and is known as the Black Rock Arts Festival. Every year Black Rock City is erected around a giant wooden statue that is immolated to much fanfare at the end of a weeklong bacchanal. Traub's images capture the festival's spirit in lots of zany costumes and art installations celebrating off-kilter takes on contemporary culture and the participants' flights of fancy. The slight accompanying text carries the highest -countercultural-subcultural pedigree, thanks -to the authors: celebration film documentarian Les Blank and Beat poetry icon Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Of course, there are some naked folk in the photographs, though their nudity is hardly gratuitous, what with all the body paint and artfully applied mud. Good visual fun and countercultural documentation, this is vibrant stuff in these grim days, a must for pop-culture collections. Mike Tribby

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"Holiday Bookshelf - Top 10 Pick: Critically acclaimed photographer Barbara Traub takes readers on a stunning visual journey that brings to life 10 years of Burning Man" -- Nevada Magazine, 2006

"This book is a landmark. It does more than illustrate a so-called counter-cultural event. Rather, it exhibits the integrity and singleness of vision of a complete work of art...It does not merely display Burning Man in pictures or explain it in words: It manifests the spirit of our culture through its style." -- Larry Harvey, co-founder and director of Burning Man, 2006

Barb Traub has been going to Burning Man for a long time. Her book, *Desert to Dream: A Decade of Burning Man Photography*, chronicles a changing festival over the last decade. If you need some visuals to jog your memory of festivals past or won't be able to attend this year, her book provides a visual exploration of Burning Man, which after all, began as an art exhibition, of sorts. -- SFist.com

Ten years ago Traub worked on assignment for Wired's cover story on Burning Man, was chief photographer for HardWired's book *Burning Man* that was published the following year, and shot for Wired News in 2001. -- Wired News

Traub's evocative photography displays the human connections established by the attendees with each other, the art they produce and the beautiful landscape of the Nevada desert. A particular aspect of humanity's capacity for artistry is what Traub brings us. From the sensitive nude photographs of people in all manner of color and caked in mud to cars retrofitted to be art on wheels and the temporary temples which dot the desert floor. -- TakeGreatPictures.com

can i give 6 stars? this is THE BEST Burning Man book bar none! if you buy 1 book, buy this one! Nimoy & Ferlinghetti - how could you possibly go wrong? the photos are impossibly beautiful, breathtaking, glorious, inspirational...I put this book in my "Top 20 List" and I have never been to Burning Man. someday.

Bought this for a friend. The papercover was ripped. Otherwise the hardcover isn't smashed and the pages are fine.

My son loves this book. He's been planning on going for a few years.

It is a very good book .

ing!

Best Burning Man photo book I have seen. I have purchased multiple copies and given as gifts.

Finest book on Burning Man I have ever read, bar none. Would totally recommend it for everyone interested in that thing in the desert.

5 Stars!!! Please if you can, get this book. There needs to be more books like this one. Buy it, buy it

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