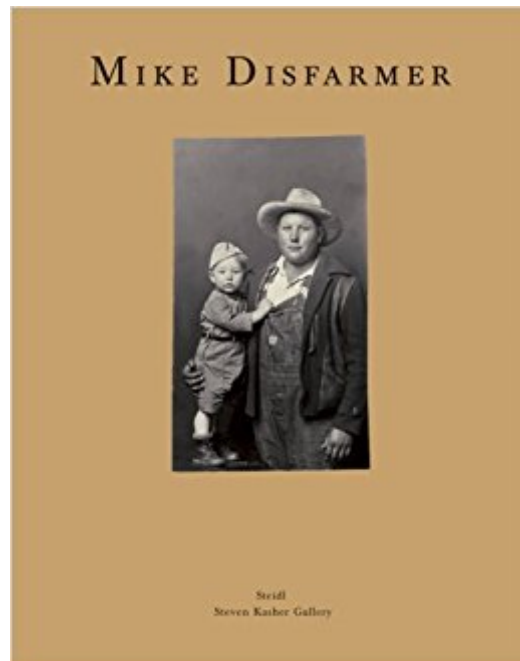




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Mike Disfarmer: Original Disfarmer Photographs



Synopsis

Last year, as The New York Times has reported, a young couple from Heber Springs, Arkansas offered a collector 50 family photographs, unassuming black-and-white studio portraits dating from the mid-twentieth century. That quiet sale, which raised the possibility that there were other vintage prints of Mike Disfarmer's work in area family albums, set off a competitive buying frenzy that had collectors going door to door through rural Arkansas, spending more than a million dollars on several thousand prints. Disfarmer's work had originally been discovered in crates of glass-plate negatives, found by the speculator who purchased his estate. It was brought to light decades later in a series of books and exhibitions that set off consistent, continuing critical acclaim, but known only in posthumous reprints. Original Disfarmer Photographs is the first publication to present these vintage prints, made by Disfarmer's own hand at the time the pictures were taken--at once family mementos and the original work of one of America's greatest portraitists. Disfarmer spent half a century making studio portraits at pennies a picture to satisfy his rural clients, and creating a style of portraiture all his own. As one subject describes its genesis, "There wasn't much of a greeting when you walked in, I'll tell you that. Instead of telling you to smile, he just took the picture. No cheese or anything."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Had just watched a documentary on this man and was so fascinated by him, his life and mostly his amazingly stark, raw portraits that I needed to buy the book to always have those photos with me.

wonderful book

A nice companion piece to the other Disfarmer book of photos. I was glad to see that they are clear and not smeared as one might expect from old glass portraits. Well worth the money.

This guy must have been doing acid before there was LSD? I have all the books of his I can afford, and the tactile experience alone for this particular volume is well worth it all. And you really have to be grateful to Mr. Albright for having bought and preserved all this stuff for feeling something in common with the man and his work. Heavy stuff.

If you have any interest in the photography of Disfarmer or the story of his photos than this is a must-have book. This showcases the prints that Disfarmer made himself while he was alive. These vintage prints show us what he intended with his images. The production is first rate and this is a generous selection of images. Being able to see the old prints is like taking a step back in time to another world. There is another book called "Vintage Prints" which came out around the same time as this and there is no overlap so if you are a collector you should get both of the books. If you were to buy just one of the two I would recommend this one since it is a little larger in size.

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