



Stephen Shore: Uncommon Places: The Complete Works

Stephan Schmidt-Wulffen (Photographs) , Stephen Shore (Photographer) , Lynne Tillman (Contributor)

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Originally published in 1982, Stephen Shore's legendary *Uncommon Places* has influenced more than a generation of photographers. Shore was among the first artists to take color beyond the domain of advertising and fashion photography, and his large-format color work on the American vernacular landscape inaugurated a vital photographic tradition. *Uncommon Places: The Complete Works*, published by Aperture in 2005, presented a definitive collection of the landmark series, and in the span of a decade has become a contemporary classic. Now, for this lushly produced reissue, the artist has added nearly 20 rediscovered images and a statement explaining what it means to expand a classic series. Like Robert Frank and Walker Evans before him, Shore discovered a hitherto unarticulated vision of America via highway and camera. Approaching his subjects with cool objectivity, Shore retains precise systems of gestures in composition and light through which a hotel bedroom or a building on a side street assumes both an archetypal aura and an ambiguously personal importance. An essay by critic and curator Stephan Schmidt-Wulffen and a conversation with Shore by writer Lynne Tillman examine his methodology and elucidate his roots in Pop and Conceptual art. The texts are illustrated with reproductions from Shore's earlier series *American Surfaces* and *Amarillo: Tall in Texas*.

At age 14 **Stephen Shore** (born 1947) had his work purchased by Edward Steichen for The Museum of Modern Art, New York. At 17 Shore was a regular at Andy Warhol's Factory, producing an important photographic document of the scene, and in 1971 at the age of 23 he became the first living photographer since Alfred Stieglitz 40 years earlier to have a one-man show at the Met. He has had numerous one-man shows, among others at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; George Eastman House, Rochester; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and The Art Institute of Chicago. Since 1982 he has been Director of the Photography Program at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

Stephen Shore: Uncommon Places: The Complete Works Details

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From Reader Review Stephen Shore: Uncommon Places: The Complete Works for online ebook

Martha says

The 1982 version of Shore's *Uncommon Places* is a slim paperback, an early career venture into familiar places in the U.S. photographed with a frankness of place that encapsulates the streets, rural roads, and homely concrete downtowns of the era. Dusty cars, telephone poles with their geometry of wires and bulky transformers, street signs and store signs, all familiar, speak of places we know, even if we've never been there.

Bill says

As the blurb on the back says, "Stephen Shore captures the essence of the American landscape by framing particular, ordinary elements so that they reveal the universal and the extraordinary....Shore's is the art of the deadpan....recapturing the overfamiliar, making it poignant, coherent, and almost lovable." Or as the front overleaf points out, he frames or focuses or chooses his photos so that, for example, "a parking lot emptied of people, a hotel bedroom, or a building on a side street" take on "an archetypal aura and an ambiguously personal importance." And those cars from the '70's!!!!
