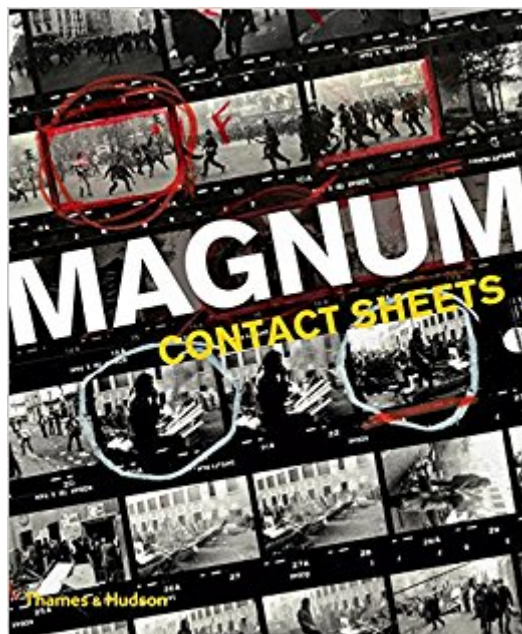


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Magnum Contact Sheets



Synopsis

At their best, the pictures add to our understanding of the surface event documented and reveal something profound about the people pushing that history forward. *© The Los Angeles Times* Available for the first time in an accessible paperback edition, this groundbreaking book presents a remarkable selection of contact sheets and ancillary material, revealing how the most celebrated Magnum photographers capture and edit the very best shots. Addressing key questions of photographic practice, the book illuminates the creative methods, strategies, and editing processes behind some of the world's most iconic images. Featured are 139 contact sheets from sixty-nine photographers, as well as zoom-in details, selected photographs, press cards, notebooks, and spreads from contemporary publications including *Life* magazine and *Picture Post*. Further insight into each contact sheet is provided by texts written by the photographers themselves or by experts chosen by the members' estates. Many of the acknowledged greats of photography are featured, including Henri Cartier-Bresson, Elliott Erwitt, and Inge Morath, as well as such members of Magnum's latest generation as Jonas Bendiksen, Alessandra Sanguinetti, and Alec Soth. The contact sheets cover over seventy years of history, from Robert Capa's Normandy landings and the Paris riots of 1968 via Bruno Barbey, to images of Che Guevara by Renée Burri, Malcolm X by Eve Arnold, and portraits of classic New Yorkers by Bruce Gilden. 446 illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

. . .a magnificent compendium of raw images from the photography cooperative. [New York Times Book Review](#)A rare revelation. [Arts and Antiques](#)Through these fascinating and usually private images, the exhibition celebrates what and how photographers saw for nearly a century. Coinciding with the publication of *Magnum Contact Sheets* (Thames & Hudson), edited by ICP Curator Kristen Lubben, the exhibition includes a selection of some of the 139 contact sheets in the book. [NY City Official City Guide](#)This 500-page volume provides a peek at the process behind these photos, showing the shots taken before and after each standout and letting the photographers tell how they made their choices. [Art+Auction](#)[This book][Art+Auction](#) offers unique insight into the working progress of the celebrated agency's photographers over the past seven decades their approach to taking and editing their pictures as well as their idiosyncratic relationships with the contact sheet. [Time Magazine](#)Gives unprecedented access into the creative process of some of the world's greatest photographers. [Complex's Art + Design](#)a magnificent compendium of raw images from the photography cooperative. [The New York Times Book Review](#)

Kristen Lubben is the Associate Curator at the International Center of Photography in New York. Her previous books include *Susan Meiselas: In History* and *Amelia Earhart: Image and Icon*.

Magnum Contact Sheets is truly a masterpiece in terms of content. The reproductions of the photographs in this book are of outstanding quality. This is an iconic book that will be highly sought after in the future. I would expect prices to skyrocket once it is out of print. In my opinion, this is a book that every serious photographer, student of photography and connoisseur of fine photography books should own. And now for the bad news: Due to a combination of marginal binding strength by Thames & Hudson and improper packing for shipment by , I had to return the book repeatedly to get an undamaged and/or non-defective copy. When copy #4 arrived, I at long last had an acceptable copy of this outstanding book. There are two threads on this book and the trials and tribulations associated with it at [L-Camera-Forum](#) (Google it). I would rate the book at five stars (or an "A") for content and quality of photographic reproduction. However, in terms of the binding I would have to rate it at two stars (or a "D"). It is truly unfortunate that the marginal binding has flawed an iconic book that is in all other ways a masterpiece.

A brilliant book I would recommend any aspiring photographer or photojournalist to have in their collection as it talks about not just the trials or work of the great ones before them, but it shows them

how the photographers of the past had worked. I particularly love this book as it shows how much the final printed out shoot differs from the ones shown in the contact sheet indicating that some degree of printing skills was involved to make the photo work very well. As well as that exposure is not always spot on when they took the photos in the hectic situation. I also love the stories associated with each of the winning shots from each contact sheet taken over the years. Keep in mind, this isn't just for film enthusiasts (but it helps to have a better understanding of the work presented here) as later chapters show digital contact sheets as well.

Earlier this year this book came up in a discussion in a photography forum, called "essential reading" for anyone who was interested in street photography. Many of the images are stunning, even more are extremely confronting. Some are timeless, and will elicit strong reactions and emotions. Iconic scenes from all over the world, and people internationally known. The stories behind the images, both personal and historic, add a level of understanding as to what and why. It's well worth getting. Oh, another thing; it's a large volume and quite heavy, so don't expect to tote it around for a read in the park.

This book represents a unique and extraordinary insight into the photojournalistic photographic process. Many famous images are represented here, but what makes them particularly valuable is you get to see the contact sheets as well as the stories behind the pictures. I know of no other book on photography that comes as close to this. Some examples that spring to mind are Ansel Adams - Making 40 Photographs, Michael Freeman's photo books, and most recently, those of Scott Kelby, all of which give you insights into technique and the photographer's mind. But none of these tap into the extraordinary resources captured in this book. My approach to reading and absorbing this substantial volume has been to look at the contact sheets first, to understand the material captured, and then see how your choices relate to those of the photographer. This in itself is a valuable learning experience, not diminished in any way by the clues contained on the contact sheet in the form of notations. This is one book that should be on the bookshelf of every serious student of photography.

Beware: This book may or may not be your cup of tea. It is huge, monumental, and quite tedious to look at. But it does exactly what it promises: show the contact sheets from which the iconic images were selected, and tell the story of how they came to be. This requires, of course, that the reader is well acquainted with said iconic images. Only photographers will find this book useful, but in return

offers a treasure trove of unique insight into the workflow and thinking of some of the world's best photojournalists.

This is a wonderful book full of historical photos. Being a photographer from the days of film photojournalism, I can identify what some of the photojournalists endured to create photos. If you are a photo enthusiast of film photography or new to photography, this book tells a story and one you will enjoy. The printing is outstanding and the quality of paper used is perfect to illustrate the reproductions of the older "proof sheets." I'll warn you, it's heavy - in weight, but well worth the purchase.

Magnum has just created the best photography collection in the world. This book is definitely a tribute to the most talented photographers in our era. It is an amazing collection of images that show not only their best shots, but also the entire filmstrip with other pictures taken before and after the main photo published in newspapers and magazines. This book is an amazing resource for those who want to decompose and reverse engineer the style and composition techniques used by famous photographers. It is an extensive collection of black and white photos and includes even handwritten notes of the photographers who shot them. It is a must-have book for any photographers considering enhancing their technique and style.

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