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The Art Of The Locomotive

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THE ART OF THE LOCOMOTIVE

KEN BOYD

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Synopsis

For all of the steam and diesel locomotives you can't see in person, or the ones you want to remember in all of their larger-than-life glory, this is the book to buy. From the steam age to the modern diesel era, locomotives are marvels of engineering and industrial design, brimming with power, movement, and man's ingenuity even when sitting still. Photographer Ken Boyd's approach to the locomotive is unlike that of any other photographer. Every aspect of his photographs, from bolts and conduits to sheet metal and windows is painstakingly evaluated and then digitally edited until it glows with clarity and brilliance. The results are images of locomotives bristling with details not visible in conventional locomotive photography. The Art of the Locomotive features 150 large-format plates depicting locomotives ranging from the diminutive steam engines of the middle nineteenth century to the steam and diesel behemoths that followed. Each plate is accompanied by a detailed caption describing the locomotive's history and technology. The machines included represent railroads from all over the United States and Canada, from the Great Lakes region to the Gulf of Mexico, from the east Coast to the West Coast. In addition, Boyd offers an appendix describing his photographic process, shedding light, as it were, on the method behind his fantastic imagery. Boyd's images are so incredibly sharp and breathtakingly rich, they have to be seen to be believed.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Voyageur Press (September 11, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0760346917

ISBN-13: 978-0760346914

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.9 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #895,061 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #142 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Trains #328 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Railroads #512 inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Railroads

Customer Reviews

Ken Boyd is an artist. When you buy The Art of the Locomotive, you buy a book like no other train or

railroad book youâ™ve ever seen. Boyd recognizes and captures in these photos the locomotive as a form of artistic industrial sculpture. If his photos make us realize this, they also provide us with Boydâ™s own unique vision of these magnificent machines as incomparable works of art, the likes of which weâ™ve never seen. The photographs in this book are more than just âœbeautifulâ•; they are arresting and captivating artistic images that give us much to think about when we look at these images of locomotives. As we review these photographs, we should not ignore the text which accompanies this book. The book is well written and offers a wealth of information on locomotives that add to our understanding and pleasure of what Boyd is about here. And it gives us a detailed insight into Boydâ™s artistic methods. This is a one of a kind book for anyone who loves trains and photography as fine art. The Art of the Locomotive is more than a âœcoffee table book,â• and a book not to be missed.

It never fails. Youâ™re all set up for the shot of some exotic train and the clouds roll in, losing the light. Or somebody walks into the frame just as the loco hits hit mark. Or you get the film back (or check the image on your D-90) and find a beer can on the ground in the foreground. Back in film days, there wasnâ™t much you could do about it. But with the advent of Photoshop and iPhoto, you have some recourse. And Ken Boyd is a master of getting rid of intrusive objects, fixing backgrounds, bringing up underbody details, and putting light in places the sun never shone. Boydâ™s Art of the Locomotive (Voyageur Press, (c) 2014) features classic locomotives in levels of detail never seen before. Boyd has been shooting trains for more than 40 years so he knows what to look for and how to bring out the best features of every piece of motive power, from the Tom Thumb at the B&O museum to the ex-Army 610 at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum and the N&W 1218 in the rain working an excursion trip. The handsome large-format book features 150 images of power in parks, museums, working and dead, in various stages of repair and rust. Personally, I prefer the crisp images that Boyd has enhanced by emphasizing whatâ™s in the original scene (Freighters at Night, page 68), foregoing extensive re-saturation (BNSF at West Bottoms, page 185). Regardless of oneâ™s taste in these matters, Boydâ™s photographerâ™s eye plus his knowledge of fine printing in the darkroom, combined with his mastery of the digital process, all come to the fore in this fine volume. It is a worthy addition to any rail enthusiastâ™s Christmas Wish List.

Ken Boyd takes photographs of locomotives and uses post-processing techniques to turn them into fine art. The results are simply spectacular. The photos are visually arresting and powerful--art that

you'd hang on your living-room wall. Many of the photos highlight details that you'd never even notice in the original photos. Others bring a dream-like atmosphere to the pictures; for example, check out the photo of the Pennsylvania Railroad electrics on page 71 or the picture of the Bessemer, Alabama, station on page 177. The book has pictures of a wide variety of engines, ranging from the 1831 John Bull to modern diesel-electrics. There's nothing like this book anywhere, and if you're a railfan or a photographer or just someone who enjoys art photography, you're in for a real treat.

I'm having trouble putting this book down! It is the best locomotive book I've seen, filled with beautiful photos of locomotives, many in their natural setting as well as a brief description of the photos. I love that early in the book, he gives his thoughts on how he developed the photos showing many before and after images. As an amateur photographer, I consider this a professional instructional book on how to setup for the shots as well as how to edit the photos, with many taken in very difficult circumstances,

I have always loved the old locomotives and thought this book would be a good collection of those type photos. But, I was not prepared to see such beautiful artwork! Amazing photography! Looking through this collection gives you the feel that you are there and seeing them up close and personal. Thanks to the author for his careful attention to detail. I would probably give one as a gift!

I have read the other reviews submitted for this book and agree with all those comments leading to my five-star rating. In addition, I would like to comment on the book itself. This book is landscape in format and is a very nice size and weight. The paper is very high quality and the inks and colors are well saturated. The inside sheets, front and back, appear to be metallic paper, adding to the overall richness of the product. The jacket is beautifully designed and produced. In general, the layout and concept have a very polished and perfected appearance. Mr. Boyd and Voyageur Press should be commended for this highly informative and quality product, that will be enjoyed for generations.

What a monumental piece of work! Dozens and dozens of creatively arranged and composed railroad images. Great photography and great deal of history surrounding this historically significant subject.

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