

NOTHING HAS CHANGED

PORTRAITS OF THE US

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LARRY NIEHUES

PORTRAITS OF THE US



LANNOO

“All people need to be seen”
– Bruce Davidson

NOTHING HAS CHANGED

Building upon the tradition of the great American road trip, French photographer Larry Niehues presents *Nothing Has Changed*, an ambitious collection of photographs that spans regional borders and identities, finding in the portraits of ordinary people and oft-forgotten places a spark of the majestic America of lore.

Much like celebrated photographer Robert Frank, who in 1955 travelled across the United States to photograph all strata of society, Mr Niehues has visited all fifty states over the course of the last six years, focusing his lens on those candid moments with the potential to elevate the mundane to the mythic.

Beginning in 2013 with a serendipitous portrait of two cowboys walking the highway towards Victorville, California, Mr Niehues documents the simple beauty of everyday life, offering a perspective that celebrates the colloquial in compellingly personal and poetic ways.

Shot entirely on 35MM film, these are photographs that locate and confront the expected vernacular of American nostalgia (gas stations, diners, choppers) with fresh eyes and a fierce understanding that the 'good old days' were never so simple, never so easy, nor ever so good.

Compassionate and honest, Mr Niehues walks the delicate line between photorealism and national fantasy, demonstrating an outsider's knack for capturing the fiction of what America was in the reality of what America is.

Andrew Pogany

Author



Foreword

The notion of being 'on the road' has always been a heavily mythologized aspect of American culture, especially for artists and writers. I got my first taste of the road as a kid, riding with my dad in his beat-up Ford van all over the Midwest in search of antiques and rare artefacts for him to sell to make his living. I remember the excitement and anticipation I would feel right as we took off in dark early morning, as if anything could happen that time. What would we find? Who would we meet? What amazing thing would we eat along the way? The unpredictability made the start of each trip feel like it was the start of an adventure—it was the endless possibilities that made pulling out of Akron, Ohio feel new each and every time.

As I got older, the road became my playground and my campus and my job site. Full-time musician meant full-time traveller. But instead of only traveling the Midwest, my scope broadened considerably—it was now every road from sea to shining sea. Coming from a small town like Akron, I always found myself attracted to those small towns between the cracks or on the other side of the tracks. We made so many friends in those places along the way. Oddballs and eccentrics in music stores, tiny diners or locally owned shops. Every time we'd pass through town, we'd make sure to say hello and check in on them. Those are friendships that last to this day.

The possibilities are endless on the American highway. The sights are never ending. The people are everywhere and they're ready to welcome you into their worlds. I'm proud to say I'm from the USA because I've really seen it with my own eyes—all the beauty and the destruction, the tradition and the innovation, the loud cities and the quiet little spaces. I feel lucky to have been down as many roads as I have but even luckier knowing I have so many more yet to explore.

Talk soon.

Dan Auerbach

Lead singer of The Black Keys / Easy Eye Sound

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