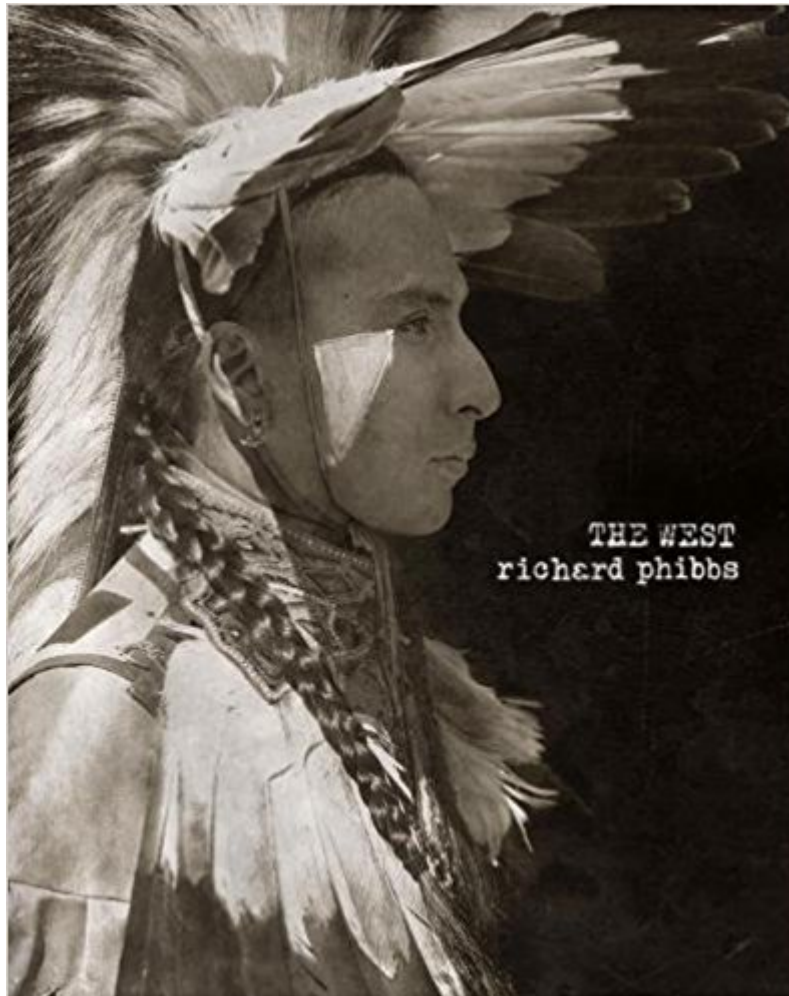




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The West



Synopsis

Acclaimed photographer Richard Phibbs turns his unique eye for beauty westward. The West, his second book, is an extremely personal view of the beauty and authenticity of the place and its lingering hold on our national consciousness. Once more Phibbs collaborates with Alfredo Paredes, Executive Vice President, Ralph Lauren, his partner in his first monograph, Chasing Beauty. Phibbs's love of the West came naturally. He was born in Calgary, Alberta, home to Canada's Calgary Stampede, one of the world's great rodeos. The landscapes of Phibbs's childhood are the background of his most evocative and authentic images: stark plains and endless prairies, weathered barns and fences, an empty horizon rolling to an open sky. This minimalism rooted in nature shaped Phibbs's aesthetic from the beginning. Peopling the western landscapes of his childhood was that archetypal hero, the cowboy. Phibbs's modern cowboys are sensitively rendered; looking into their eyes, you connect with decades of tradition while experiencing an electric shock of immediacy. Phibbs's artful images • iconic portraits of cowboys, horses as wild and free as the wide-open spaces, a dog working its herd with skillful grace, a saddle weathered with work and time • find their deserved setting in Paredes's careful editing, with comparisons and contrasts that amplify each photo's emotional resonance. With the eye that brings Ralph Lauren's vision to life in stores and showrooms around the world, Paredes crafts a book that is, truly, a tribute to the American spirit. First, he chased beauty. Now Phibbs chases the legend.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Phibbs brings an artist's eye to every photograph he takes – in advertising and editorial, fine art, and his personal work. His work has appeared in major publications worldwide. He has shot advertising campaigns for iconic brands like Ralph Lauren, Giorgio Armani, and Calvin Klein. His fine art photography is in the private collections of many notable collectors. Phibbs's portraits present varied subjects – from Meryl Streep to Rafael Nadal, from Beyonce to Bernard-Henri Levy. Phibbs is also an experienced director. He is currently working on a project that he filmed in Turkey. Phibbs's passion is photography. His provocative book, *Chasing Beauty*, published in 2010, highlights a decade's worth of work from his archive. Phibbs's compassion for his longtime causes – animal rescue and children with AIDS, are his inspiration. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Humane Society of New York. Richard Phibbs was born and raised in Western Canada. He lives in New York City. Alfredo Paredes is Executive Vice President of Global Creative Services, Polo Store Development and Home Collection Design Studio. He is known for bringing Mr. Lauren's cinematic vision to life in Ralph Lauren stores around the globe and leading Ralph Lauren Home's creative direction, design, and advertising. Paredes passionately serves on the National Board of Trustees for Design Industry Foundation Fighting Aids (DIFFA) and sits on The Empire State Pride Agenda's Board of Directors. Paredes was born and raised in Miami, Florida, attended the Art Institute of Atlanta, and currently resides in Manhattan and East Hampton, New York.

Once again fashion photographer Richard Phibbs takes us to an exotic locale – this time, the North American West – and whoooo, what a beautiful journey it is. Phibbs's images have a vintage tintype-look that only add to the mystery of their age. Were they taken last week? Or 60 years ago? Doesn't really matter – they're simply stunning. It's very easy to see why Phibbs is fond of his Western-Canadian background – the fields, dilapidated barns, and even teepees. Everything seems to move just a little bit slower in front of his lens. Like the rodeo. Phibbs's version isn't the blurry, fast-paced jolt that we might expect, but more of a softer, father-son kind of experience. There's a slight nod to Herb Ritz, Edward Curtis and Bruce Webber, (all my favorite photographers) but not too much – and there doesn't need to be. Phibbs has his own vision of this idyllic, western life – and luckily, he shares it with us in this beautiful book. Get a copy

now. You won't regret it.

I was excited to learn that Richard Phibbs was working on a new book to follow his extremely successful *Chasing Beauty*, published in 2010. I recently purchased *The West*, Phibbs' 2017 collection of images taken from points leading there; Utah, Montana, Colorado, and Alberta, Canada. Born in Calgary, Alberta, (home to one of the world's greatest rodeos, the Calgary Stampede), Phibbs uses this as his focal point and inspiration for many of the 125+ images in this volume. As with *Chasing Beauty*, Phibbs partners again with Editor Alfredo Paredes, who succeeds greatly in combining words and images in the best possible, most cohesive way to tell Phibbs' story. The subjects are vast and varied--a wheat field in Alberta, horses in the snow, a young cowboy sporting a missing front tooth at the Calgary Stampede. Each image is unique, yet each represents the sprawling, vibrant, impactful and intimate vision that Richard is known for. Most of the images are shot on film and include both color and black and white photographs. My favorite shots have a quality similar to ones taken from an older camera, like plate glass photography and feel historic in nature. If you or your friends love beautiful photography and/or western images, this book is a must-have. Both *The West* and *Chasing Beauty* reside on a table in my living room and are repeatedly picked up and talked about by those who visit. I've given each as gifts over the years, with two more wrapped and ready for the 2015 holidays! It's also good karma to purchase from those who give--100% of Phibbs' proceeds for *The West* go to support indigenous youth and education, as well as animal rescue.

Lovely book of photographs of the West

Beautiful book

Beautiful!

My copy of Richard's book arrived yesterday. I can feel the layers of dust, sweat, bruising and toughening in the way he presented his studied subjects. Beneath that is his love of the athlete, regardless of species. And the fringes, straps, bindings - functional and ornamental. A cowboy's stance becomes a flamenco dancer's swishing dress. A native in headdress becomes a spirited prairie pinto. A simple graceful halter sits breathlessly on a horse's sensuous face. Lovely! And the personalities! Young anticipation and possibilities, laser focus in athletes, and family honoured

passion for tradition and training deep in all their bones, no matter what their age and stage. He caught it in them all. And then he linked it right back to the remote, unseen relationship between man and horse out on the prairie of movement and weather. And gorgeous skies and clouds witness it all in passing. Those selective bits of colour of land and sky fill me up sweetly.

This is such a beautiful photography book. The pictures are breathtaking and timeless. It encompasses all the allure of that lifestyle and also makes a great gift. I ordered two books one to keep and one to a friend who loves horses and the western landscape. I display it on my coffee table and everyone always picks it up first and asks about the photographer. He is truly gifted. I would definitely recommend this art book.

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