

10/2018

**Jerry Berndt**

***Beautiful America***

**Edited by Maik Schlüter**

### **Main description**

Jerry Berndt documented the period between 1968 and 1980 in America like no other photographer. Personally involved in the anti-Vietnam War activities of the 1960s, Berndt's work combines photojournalism with documentary, conceptual and street photography to create a unique view of America's social constitution during these decisive years.

Berndt consistently placed himself near political conflict, systematically portraying the spectrum of America's people and cityscapes, including the middle and working classes, as well as the inhabitants of America's often ignored ghettos. In the early 1970s, Berndt withdrew from political protest and worked for newspapers, imbuing his pictures with a timelessness beyond current events. His work from this period shows how Americans expressed themselves culturally and socially (in beauty pageants, car showrooms, fashion shows and on the street), while also exposing the foundation of America's changeable urban infrastructure (offices, bars, arterial highways, billboards and parking lots). This book visualizes an important, uneasy period of transition in American's recent history, and highlights the literal and ironic aspects of its "beauty."

---

### **Biography**

Jerry Berndt, born in 1943 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, worked as a photographer for over forty years, employed by newspapers and magazines including the Boston Globe, the New York Times, Newsweek and Paris Match. His work as a photojournalist took him to numerous conflict areas such as San Salvador (1984), Haiti (1986–91), Armenia (1993–94) and Rwanda (2003–04). Berndt taught at Boston University's College of Fine Art and at the University of Massachusetts, and his work is held by prominent institutions including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris. In 2008, Berndt was honored by a retrospective in Braunschweig and Berlin, for which Steidl published *Insight*. Berndt died in Paris in 2013.

## **Bibliography**

Jerry Berndt

*Beautiful America*

Edited by Maik Schlüter

English

Book design: Duncan Whyte and Maik Schlüter

216 pages

97 photographs

22 x 19.2 cm

Clothbound

€ 38.00

ISBN 978-3-86930-898-2