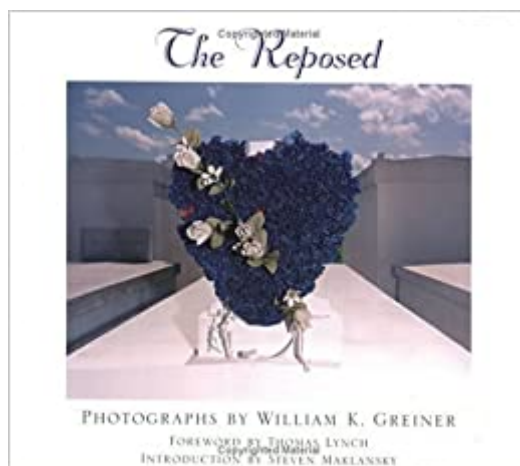


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The Reposed



Synopsis

Book by Greiner, William K., Thomas Lynch

Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Louisiana State University Press; First Edition edition (October 1, 1999)

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Customer Reviews

A Southerner born and bred, Spencer presents a collection of brooding black-and-white photographs of the South that read as richly as color images. His work--portraits that are clearly stage-directed but pull the viewer in, and landscapes mysteriously shrouded with mist or smoke--are technically proficient and unusual. Some images (like his picture of a headless man holding a glistening fish) are even unforgettable. And most importantly, his out-of-the-ordinary photographic printing technique doesn't overshadow the meaning and power of the images. Greiner, a New Orleans-based photographer, focuses his camera on cemeteries, a common camera subject in Louisiana. He makes uncommon images out of them, however, in large part because he shoots them in color rather than the usual black-and-white. These photos are part-landscape shots, part-portraits. Mixing humor, pathos, and deep respect, he captures the tributes that mourners have paid to the deceased and the traces of life they leave behind: flowers, shrines, framed portraits, colored gravel, plastic flowers, dead arrangements on scarecrow-like wreath-stands, potted plants, religious statuary, and, of course, gravestones of every variety. Both books contain good-quality, lively reproductions, and both are recommended for photographic collections.-Kathleen Collins, Bank of America Corporate Archives, San Francisco Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

NPR affiliate KERA-FM in Dallas, Bill Zeeble, conducts an in-depth interview with photographer William Greiner... -- National Public Radio-Morning Edition April 12, 2000

Thumbing through 'The Reposed,' I was struck by the way people honor their dead. These stirring photographs also made me think of my own loved ones, and how long it took me to begin similarly honoring them. A reverence I didn't initially share roars through these pages, and in the most focused ways: You see inscriptions both profound and simple in the book. You see fake and real flowers. You see overgrown country graves, stark white mausoleums, unknown names and long-ago dates. You see big love, writ small -- and heartache that shoots across people like an angry storm cloud. You see whimsy. You see every loss you ever had, play out. Yes, some powerful ruminating follows in the wake of 'Reposed.' I was reminded again that there is a lot more than simple memory in these places, and how much it meant to me when I joined in this now treasured ritual. Each site is such a co-mingling of that which is lost with something much bigger than the bodies below: Our own every day recognition of what these people still mean to us. Thanks, Mr. Greiner.

To capture the ironies, poignancies, and soulful idiosyncrasies of the grave sites pictured in this book, William Greiner spent several years traversing the cemeteries of New Orleans and South Louisiana.... Despite Greiner's obvious debt to William Eggleston, who is often cited as the father of modern color photography, his photographs stand out as originals. The compositions are provocative, and he renders garish colors into a lushly seductive palette..... Mr. Greiner's small, Louisiana-style models of the barren earth combine with Thomas Lynch's elegant foreword to make *The Reposed* a fascinating book. Nov/Dec 1999

William Greiner is definitely an artist to watch! This book is wonderful! The color photographs are haunting and the presentation honors a most memorable subject - graves and memorials to dead. Not just any dead people - but those quirky graves of New Orleans and vicinity are photographed here. The setting often combines the commonplace with the ethereal. A brilliant theme photographed by a genius at capturing the unusual around us. It's really a wonderful book to own and display.

I have seen William Greiner's work at galleries and have wished for years that this particular series of photographs would be published in book format. Finally it has been! How can I begin to describe

the colors one sees in these cemetery pictures? They are positively unearthly. I have never seen anything like it and will never be able to convey the ethereal effect of his photographs. Of course, seeing images on a computer screen will only get you about 10% of the way to how tremendously beautiful this book is. There are a number of lovely photography books covering cemeteries in New Orleans and Louisiana, but this is the most extraordinary one I have ever seen. The others I have seen are in black and white and seem somehow about death and stillness and architecture. Greiner's color photographs show the most intimate little details and mementos of these burial places...I feel like I am seeing something about a LIFE and a PERSON and LOVED ONES and an AFTERLIFE rather than death and concrete and marble. I am peeking into some kind of secret world where the deceased linger. I have looked at so many of these haunting images and thought maybe I could imagine something about the lives or souls of these "reposed" of the book's title. I'm sure I'll never know a thing, but it's remarkable that a book of cemetery photographs can have that effect on me. There's a depth here that is unmatched in this area of photography. My words are nearly useless to describe it. I'll probably get several copies to use as gifts this holiday season so I can SHOW people instead of trying to tell them. (Too bad All Saints Day isn't one of those gift-giving occasions...)

If one picture is worth a thousand words, then this book is worth sixty two thousands words to describe the surreal photographs. Definitely not enough room here to convey what I think is a remarkable look at cemeteries in and around New Orleans. William Greiner is a genius with a camera, who has taken the cemetery photograph and made it into a haunting, beautiful work of art.

William Greiner's first monograph is a welcome selection of photographs from his many years of work in color. Greiner's view of the world, mainly in his native Louisiana, is alternately witty, tender and rhetorical. THE REPOSED is a book that the viewer will want to look at again and again.--
Deborah Bell, Private Dealer of Photographs, New York City

If you only buy one photography book in your lifetime, this is it. Nobody has ever said so much with pictures about a dead subject.

Thomas Lynch writes a transcendent introduction, as usual. William Greiner's photographs are beautiful and original to view, but also convey their own graveyard poetry from the bottom to the top of the human spectrum. I couldn't recommend this gorgeous book more highly.

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The Reposed

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