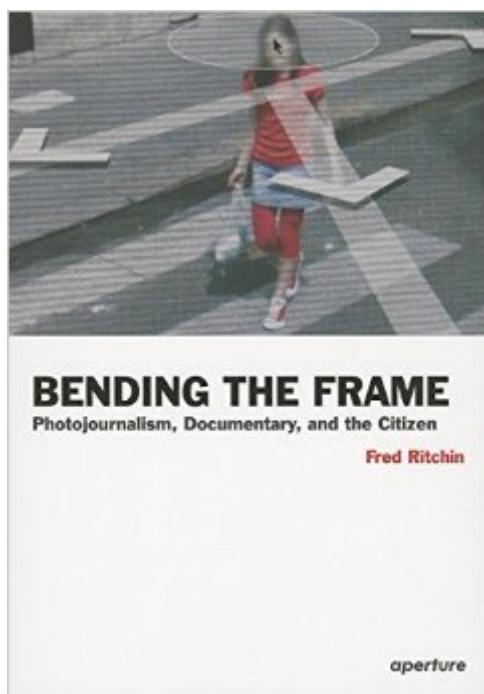


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Bending The Frame: Photojournalism, Documentary, And The Citizen



Synopsis

In "Bending the Frame," Fred Ritchin--Professor of Photography & Imaging at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and author of "After Photography"--examines the complex relations between social justice and photojournalism in today's oversaturated political and media climates. Is visual journalism even effective at all, given the ease with which so many of us can simply record events? And how can the impact of iconic images from the Civil Rights Movement or the Vietnam War be compared to, say, the consequences of leaked images from Abu Ghraib? Do changes in strategy imply changes in accountability and responsibility for visual journalism as a whole? Ritchin intends his discussion--which ranges across new media but also includes uses of video as well as a wide range of books and exhibitions--to provide critical tools with which to approach the various efforts of today's visual (and "citizen") journalists and documentary photographers. He also examines the historical uses of photography and related media to inspire social change, the better to pose the critical question that lies at the heart of his book: How can images promote new thinking and make a difference in the world?

Book Information

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Aperture (June 30, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1597111201

ISBN-13: 978-1597111201

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #151,616 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photojournalism #50 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Criticism & Essays #592 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference

Customer Reviews

This volume takes readers through the looking glass and down the rabbit hole into the surrealistic world of photojournalism and its history, uses, effects, and possibly its future.--L.L. Scarth"Choice" (12/01/2013)Does photojournalism matter? By Richin's account, its role has shifted but not shrunk in our media - saturated world.--Jack Crager"American Photo" (11/01/2013)

Fred Ritchin is professor and associate chair of the Department of Photography and Imaging at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and codirects the Photography and Human Rights Program at NYU with the Magnum Foundation. He is also director and cofounder of PixelPress, which works with humanitarian groups to develop visual projects dealing with social justice issues. Ritchin has written for Aperture, Le Monde, the New York Times, and the Village Voice, and authored several books, including the prescient *In Our Own Image: The Coming Revolution in Photography* (Aperture, 1990, 2000) and the more recent *After Photography* (2009) and *Bending the Frame* (2013).

Fine book deserving of 5 stars but marred, as others have noted, by an unusually small typeface. Aperture, the publisher, should be ashamed of the size of the typeface and should apologize to the author. I'm guessing a Kindle edition would not suffer from this issue (I read the paperback edition).

A sterling book to read, although I do think it needs some improvement. No doubt the author is a well renowned writer and all, but I feel the prose would have been better to improve the flow as the text felt very complex. Still it was a very good book as it asked and answered the many questions facing journalism's many challenges such as the diminished readership of newspapers and how new media such as citizen journalism seem to provide up to date news through photos taken on cellphone. I also loved the fact the author had included many real world examples of projects that are happening to make use of new media to bring out change through journalism instead of talking about theories as some other books have done so. While a short read (six chapters) but the font is terribly small allowing a lot of text to be packed into a single page, making for a long read. A good book to get an up to date understanding of today's state of journalism due to new media, it even makes mention of the Arab spring as well as many other current events. Although I suspect this book will have little relevance a few more years down the road once the ramifications mentioned in the book have had time to settle and the outcomes have been properly analysed.

Excellent book just what I was expecting, thank you

I really admire Fred Ritchin's perspective on photography.

Well written, well articulated ideas about photography. Ritchin raises questions and opens the

discussion to actually finding answers. I would recommend this to anyone serious about the progression of photographs.

Some great ideas to use for discussion starters and different ways of thinking of documentary work. Not a fast read.

You will learn a lot but it is heavy reading so if you're looking for a thriller to read on vacation this is not your book.

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