Briefly Noted

Recommended Citation

This paper is posted at ScholarlyCommons. https://repository.upenn.edu/svc/vol10/iss4/12
For more information, please contact repository@pobox.upenn.edu.
Briefly Noted


In the rising tide of books about the FSA photographers and their work, this book stands out as unusually attuned to the spirit of the original project. Ganzel spent seven years roaming the Dust Bowl, carrying copies of the FSA photos, locating and photographing many of the same people and places forty years later. The changes—or lack of changes—are discussed in the words of the subjects as well as shown in Ganzel's excellent photographs. The beautifully produced book also contains introductory and technical sections by Ganzel, who clearly feels a responsibility to live up to the standards established by the FSA group. He has succeeded to an impressive degree.


Todd Webb has been photographing Georgia O'Keeffe and her New Mexico surroundings for thirty years. Forty of his photographs are included in this beautiful volume, portraying the artist and her world in a fashion which evokes the images and the landscape so familiar from O'Keeffe's own work. The picture of O'Keeffe in Juan Hamilton's starkly geometric studio, silhouetted against a stunning mountain view, is, as they say, worth the price of admission.

Dorothea Lange. Migrant Mother [Florence Thompson with her daughters: Norma, in her arms; Katherine, left; and Ruby]. Nipomo, California, March 1936. From Dust Bowl Descent, p. 30 (no. 31).

Bill Ganzel. Florence Thompson and her daughters Norma Rydlewski (in front), Katherine McIntosh, and Ruby Sprague, at Norma's house. Modesto, California, June 1979. From Dust Bowl Descent, p. 31 (no. 32).