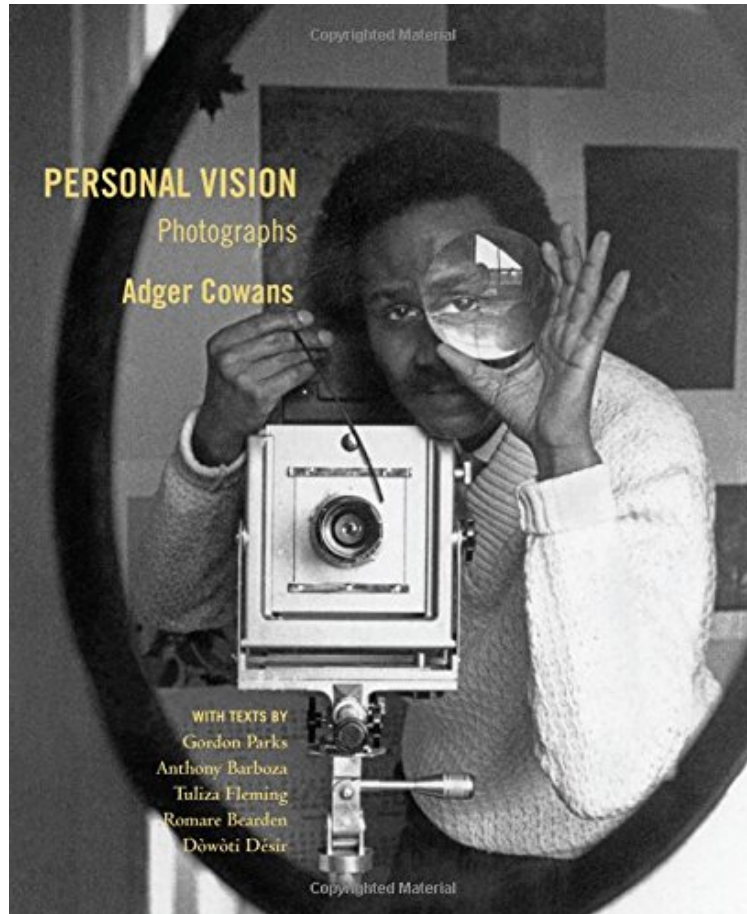


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## Personal Vision: Photographs

*Adger Cowans, Gordon Parks*

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**Adger Cowans, Gordon Parks : Personal Vision: Photographs** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Personal Vision: Photographs:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. You Will Enjoy "Personal Vision" by Adger CowansBy IMP#1Mr. Cowans' "Personal Vision" takes us on a visual journey into his experiences as a close observer of many facets of American life over a sixty-year (and counting) career in photography. He says he was encouraged by his "traditional black family to embrace culture." He chose the camera as his instrument to share emotions. His subjects range from city life seen from his unique perspective, to a peak at the film stars he has worked with, to stunning portraits of jazz greats, and glimpses from his travels around the world. His artistry also includes some impressionistic photos that are like lovely abstract paintings. I love his use of light and shadow in the black and white images. He has lived an incredible life that appears in these pages. I highly recommend this beautiful book.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. When we make contact with our cosmic kin (ETs and ...By Dr. Peter LowndsWhen we make contact with our cosmic kin (ETs and the like) I will bring a copy of Adger Cowans' astonishing compendium of images and

hand it to the one with the most eyes in her head. "Personal Vision" mixes history, sociology, aesthetics and soul. It is also a diary of one man's journey through the second half of the XX century and into the XXI, a man with eyes and heart wide open who makes the most personal moments universal because of an ability to penetrate the mask, crack the shell and squeeze the juice out of life. Every time I close the book I have to restrain myself from opening it up again or bringing it to a friend's house and sharing the many worlds that lie therein. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully captures moments in time and history By Dreamer Beautifully captures moments in time and history. I gave this book as a gift and the person who received it was so pleased. I looked over her shoulder as she remembered many of the people in the photographs and her time in New York City. It gave me joy to see her so happy. Thank you for celebrating such a talented artist in a memorable book.

Master American photographer Adger Cowan's predominantly black-and-white photography is collected in *Personal Vision: Photographs*, his monograph of original images taken over the past forty years. Cowan is one of the great unrecognized photographic luminaries of our time, and this magnificent book is a fitting and long-awaited tribute to his immense talent. *Personal Vision* follows Cowan's photographic evolution from Navy photographer to apprentice to the great Gordon Parks to history-shaping documenter of 1960s Harlem to a high-profile Hollywood portrait photographer with a larger-than-life clientele list, including Al Pacino, Jane Fonda, Katherine Hepburn, and Mick Jagger. Cowan's images embody 1960s documentary style, street journalism, portraiture and self-portrayals, still-lives, and experimental work. *Personal Vision* captures the evolution and expansive talent of a single photographer who had access to worlds as diverse as Harlem street life and high-fashion models, and who continues to photograph today with gusto and imagination, creating one of the major archives of a living American photographer, seen here for the first time in an expansive collection.

Cowan is one of the great unrecognized photographic luminaries of our time [and has] creating one of the major archives of a living American photographer today, seen here for the first time in an expansive collection. This book is a must-have for photography enthusiasts, history buffs, African-American history aficionados, and anyone who wishes to view the evolution one of the most important photographers of our time. (Art Daily, December 9, 2016)...for a much-needed dose of spiritual nourishment and artistic inspiration, look no further than *Personal Vision*, the handsome new monograph of the photographer Adger Cowan's terrific body of work. (Alex Belth The Daily Beast, January 15, 2017) Though the Metropolitan Museum and MoMA have exhibited his professional work, [Adger Cowan's] book... features frames from his personal collection. The tome contains 40 years of photographs ? including Malcolm X at a rally on Fifth Avenue, Halle Berry and Al Pacino on set, and portraits of Gordon Parks. (Lena Rawley New York Magazine, January 24, 2017) 'Personal Vision' attests to Mr. Cowan's mastery, featuring a broad range of photographic subjects... Pulsing with the heartbeat of their subjects, these images make visible that which is often unseen: the complex humanity that defines each of us, making us far more similar than different... Mr. Cowan's production has been prodigious. (Maurice Berger The New York Times, December 20, 2016) Over the course of a long career that included an apprenticeship with Gordon Parks, a run as a successful magazine portraitist and film set photographer and a longstanding interest in fine art, Adger Cowan has been driven by the desire to capture emotion... [Personal Vision] celebrates the span of his work, from street studies to portraits of creators ranging from Romare Bearden, pictured with his cat, to Mick Jagger napping in a hammock. (PDN, January 15, 2017) "Asked what he has meant to the world of photography, Cowan replied, 'I don't think like that. Spirit touches me and something comes out. It belongs with the world, it doesn't belong with me.'" (Michelle Miller CBS) "Mr. Cowan also paints, makes music, and works with fiber, bolstering his Renaissance Man stature. The book riffs on that distinction, showing different phases of his photography discretely, including digital concoctions, still lives, and experimental imagery." (Jonathan Blaustein A Photo Editor, March 3, 2017) Perhaps the best way to describe Cowan's work is to speak of its soul, of its capturing and encapsulating the ineffable, intangible, ephemeral yet eternal, essence of life, one that is as ethereal in spirit as it is tangible in silver gelatin printing. (Sara Rosen Feature Shoot) About the Author Adger Cowan studied photography at Ohio State University under Clarence H. White Jr., then served as a military photographer in the United States Navy before moving to New York City, where he worked with Life magazine photographer Gordon Parks and fashion photographers Henri Clarke, Ben Somoroff, Lillian Bassman, Steve Manville, among others. Adger has received the John Hay Whitney Fellowship, as well as the Lorenzo il Magnifico alla Carriera, in recognition of his distinguished career, at the 2001 Florence Biennale of Contemporary Art. His travels have led him to Morocco, Brazil, Paris, London, Rome, Florence, Switzerland, Bali, Mexico, and all over the United States. Among the numerous museums Adger has exhibited at are MoMA, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, George Eastman House, Harvard University, Chicago School of Design, International School of Photography, and the Studio Museum of Harlem. He lives in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Gordon Parks was a prominent African-American photographer, musician, writer, and film director. Parks is best remembered for his iconic photos of poor Americans during the 1950s, for his photographic essays for Life magazine, and as the director of the 1972 film *Shaft*. Romare Bearden was an American artist and writer who depicted African-American life. He experimented with many types of mediums, and even

designed costumes and sets for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Bearden had a prolific career with two of his collages appearing on the covers of *Fortune* and *Time* magazines, in 1968. His work can be found at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Studio Museum in Harlem, among others. Dòwòti Désir is a social curator, activist, faith leader, photojournalist, designer, and author. She lives in New York City. Anthony Barboza is an African-American photographer, artist, historian, and writer. He is best known for his photographic work of Jazz musicians from the 70s and 80s. He lives in Westbury, New York.