

All pictures ©Susan Burnstine



Within Shadows

Susan Burnstine

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BOOK OF THE MONTH

From an early age Susan Burnstine was obsessed with making pictures. Her mum encouraged her to take her first photographs when she was eight years old and when she was 11 her dad built her a darkroom. As an adult, she has built her own homemade cameras to help create the pictures she has in her mind.

And what strange and beautiful pictures she has in her mind. These are extraordinary images – all shot in black and white – that explore dreams and nightmares and the moments between dreaming and waking.

Using alternative analogue processes and handmade cameras, Burnstine has conjured up a series of photographs that are haunting, intriguing, disturbing, uplifting and ceaselessly inventive. Dark figures walk towards blazing lights, a girl in a white dress holds her hands out in rapture, a silhouetted man stands on an empty road. Everywhere there are images of a journey: trains, paths, bridges, roads and steps.



These are deeply personal images, full of contrasts between light and dark, movement and stillness, life and death. The pictures have a strong sense of unity about them, but there are

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also subtle shifts in mood and tone.

Susan Burnstine is a regular contributor to *Black+White Photography* who has interviewed many of the most interesting black & white photographers currently at work in America. This book is a chance for us to share just how good Susan's own pictures are. She uses a range of traditional techniques to produce pictures that are modern, original and very powerful.

The book includes a short essay by George Slade about Susan's work plus an interview with her. But it's the pictures that are most important. These are images to haunt the imagination.

Mark Bentley

