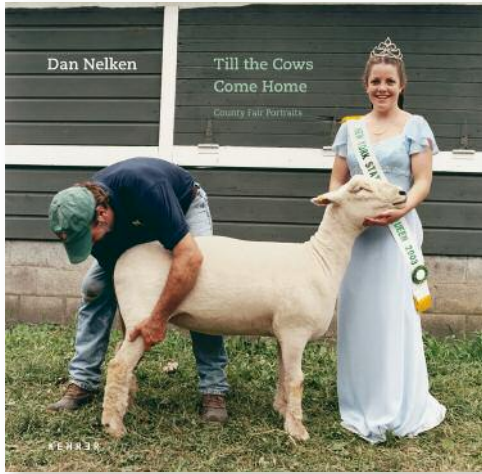


NEW RELEASE



Dan Nelken *Till The Cows Come Home*

Texts by Roy Flukinger, Dan Nelken
 Designed by Kehrer Design (Katharina Stumpf)
 Hardcover
 22,5 x 22,5 cm
 120 pages
 68 color ill.
 English
 ISBN 978-3-939583-87-5
 Euro 36,00

A unique record of humans and their animals at county fairs across the United States

It still exists: the small family farm with its own traditions, but it is threatened with extinction. In rural communities and at county fairs across the USA, one can still find it. Dan Nelken, in his portraiture, has recorded the essence of these time-honored ways of living and working. In its short week, the county fair celebrates the hard work of the preceding seasons as the year's stresses evaporate in the jubilant atmosphere of this annual event.

Since 2000, Dan Nelken photographed county fairs throughout New York State, drawn by their simplicity, their moments of tranquility amidst the festivity, and their link to the past. Searching to convey the intimacy, rhythm and flow of the essence of a cultural phenomenon that is slowly disappearing.

Thus Dan Nelken's vision of the county fair is no mere accumulation of people, animals, scenes and events. Far from it. Till the Cows Come Home is one of those rare bodies of work that combines a surface ease of viewing with a passionate depth of character and feeling. If one chooses just to enjoy the subjects, then Nelken's images are seemingly direct and uncomplicated portraits of the participants in some of the hundreds of county fairs that make up American rural life. His vibrant use of color in the square format imagery is combined with the centralized placement of many figures in order to make his subjects emerge from the page with an assured presence of who they are and what role they are playing in each fair.

Simultaneously, however, these photographs also possess a depth that is alluring and compassionate. Nelken's county fairs exist on many levels – as entertainment, competition, communication, cel-

bration, and crucible of human emotion – but above all they serve to provide us the viewers with a point of focus from which we may be provided with the opportunity to share in some aspect of all these experience. His photographs invite us to become an active part of this process of vision, much as Walt Whitman first noted in a related context over a century earlier: "I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contained / I stand and look at them long and long."

Do so. Look deeper into each photograph, past their record of human faces and animal figures and through their delightful wit or wistful pathos. If you do so, the spirit of these participants and the complexity of the seemingly simple events in which they are engaged will move you.

– from the text by Roy Flukinger

Dan Nelken, a commercial and art photographer based in New York City, studied graphic design before veering into film and photography. His award-winning work has been exhibited, collected, and published in the USA and abroad.

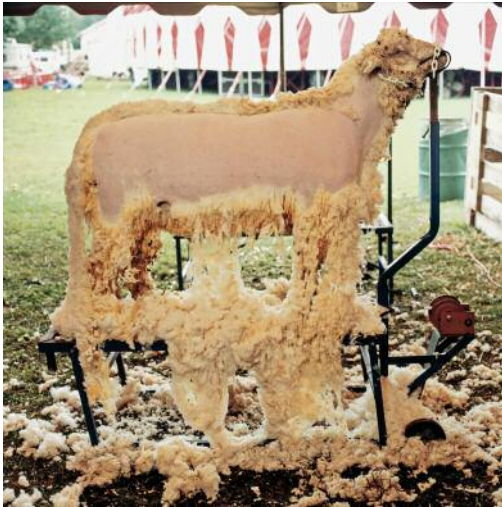
Please note:

These photographs have been copyright cleared for worldwide print and electronic reproduction in the context of reviews of the books only. Print media: No more than THREE photographs plus the cover image from the selection can be used in total – they are not to be used on the cover or cropped. Online media may use a total of TEN images in a gallery.

For further details, press images, permissions and review copies, please contact the publisher's press office:

Barbara Karpf, barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com
pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com
 Kehrer Verlag, Wieblinger Weg 21, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany
 Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-25 | Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20
www.kehrerverlag.com

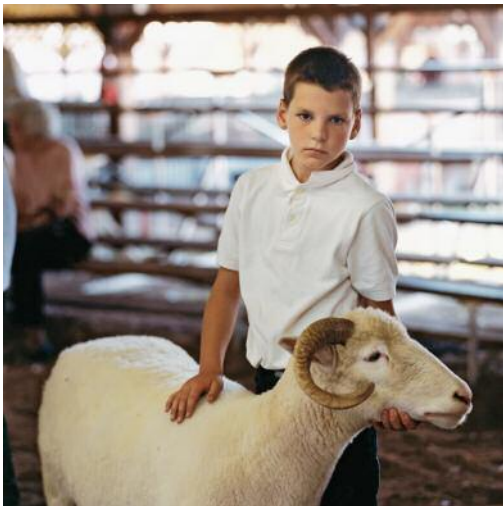
Press images



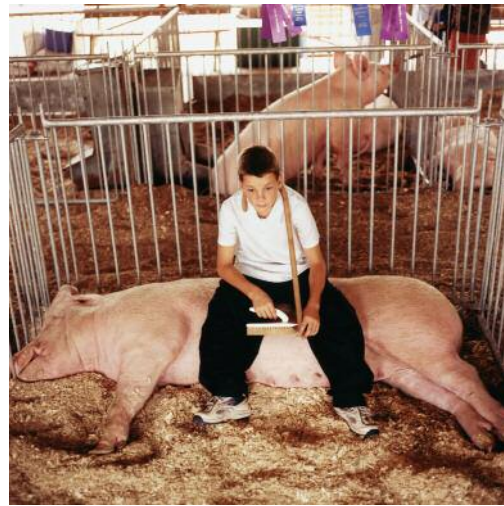
01 Half Naked
Schoharie County Sunshine Fair 2003 © Dan Nelken



02 Two Days Old
Delaware County Fair 2001 © Dan Nelken



03 Waiting for the Judges Decision
Delaware County Fair 2001 © Dan Nelken



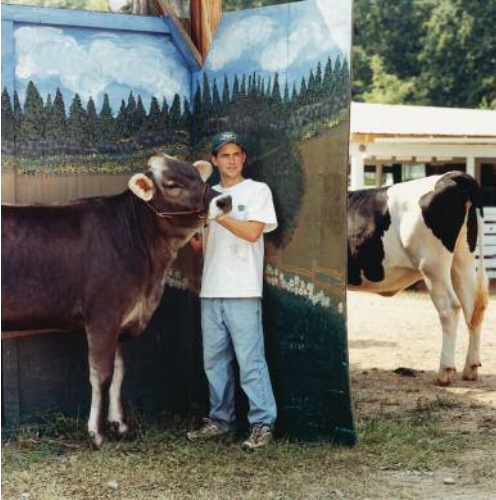
04 Thing 2 Resting
Delaware County Fair 2001 © Dan Nelken



05 Brothers
Schoharie County Sunshine Fair 2003 © Dan Nelken



06 LThe Finalists
Delaware County Fair 2000 © Dan Nelken



07 Dairy Competition Winner
Otsego County Fair 2002 © Dan Nelken



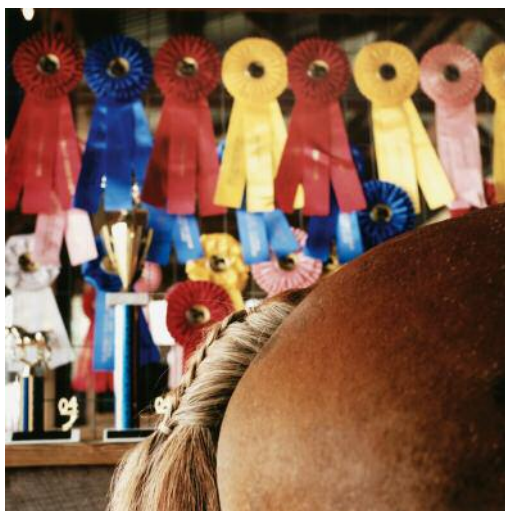
08 Last Years Winners
Madison County Fair 2001 © Dan Nelken



09 Grand Champion Rabbit
Schoharie County Sunshine Fair 2001 © Dan Nelken



10 Finally Won
Delaware County Fair 2002 © Dan Nelken



11 Draft Horse
Delaware County Fair 2004 © Dan Nelken



12 They Both Won
Schoharie County Sunshine Fair 2003 © Dan Nelken