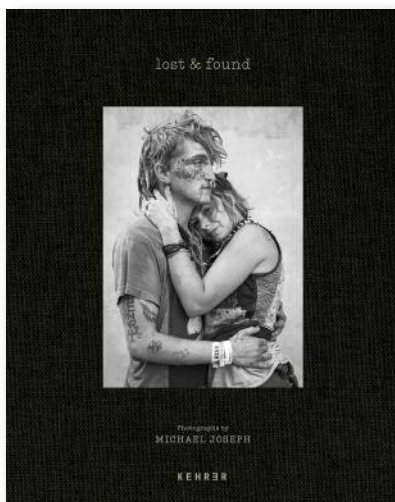


NEW RELEASE 2023

**Michael Joseph**  
***Lost & Found***  
**A portrait of American wanderlust**



Texts by Michael Joseph, Paige Stevens, and by the travelers  
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**Striking street portraiture of a contemporary American subculture of young travelers**

*Lost & Found* is a portrait series that examines the individual souls of lost youth who abandon home to travel around the country by hitchhiking and freight train hopping. Within their personal journey driven by wanderlust, escapism or a search for transient jobs, they find a new family in their traveling friends. They are photographed on public streets using natural light, in the space in which they are found over a ten year period.

Like graffiti on the walls of the city streets they inhabit and the trains they ride, their bodies and faces become the visual story-book of their lives. Their clothing is often a mismatch of found items. Jackets, pants and vests are self-made like a patchwork quilt, using fabric pieces of a fellow traveler's clothing embellished by metal bottle caps, buttons, safety pins, lighter parts, syringe caps, and patches. The high of freedom however, does not come without consequence. Their lifestyle is physically risky and rampant with substance abuse.

Each traveler's story is different, but they are bound by a sense of community. Often unseen and mistaken by their appearances, they are some of the kindest people one might meet. Their souls are open and their gift is time. As one states, *They will give you their time because time is all they have.* And in some cases, in the family they have lost, they have found each other.

From the introduction by **Paige Stevens:**

*Travelers are often people who have fallen through so many different circles and layers of hell and suffering that we have, in a sense, passed beyond all fear. Not that anyone is completely fearless, but somewhere along the way, we saw or experienced something that allowed us to let go of what most people hold onto for comfort and security: family, jobs, homes, stability. We've already*

*lost it or never had it to begin with. And once you've lost everything, there's nothing left to lose. Only then does the world truly reveal itself as an open field of opportunities. (...)*

*It's a homecoming, in a sense, a way back towards the way we were meant to be and finding a place where we belong.*

**Michael Joseph** is a photographer who documents subculture through street portraiture. Raised just outside of New York City, his inspirations are drawn from interactions with strangers on city streets and aims to afford his audience the same experience through his photographs. His portraits are made unplanned and up close to allow the viewer to explore the immediate and unseen.

Joseph's work has been featured on CNN, Vice, AnotherMan, PaperMag and published in magazines internationally including Elle, Inked, 1814 and SHOTS. His images were in solo and group shows, e.g. at Daniel Cooney Fine Art, New York, Soho Photo Gallery, New York, Aperture Gallery, New York, Getty Images Gallery, London, Griffin Museum of Photography, Winchester. He is included in public collections like the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Indiana, and in private collections. In 2016 and in 2023 he was a Photolucida Top 50 winner and in 2020 a LensCulture Portrait Award Finalist.

Joseph has been teaching at International Center of Photography, New York, Savannah College of Art and Design, New England School of Photography, Boston, and Light Factory, Charlotte.

[www.michaeljosephphotographics.com](http://www.michaeljosephphotographics.com)

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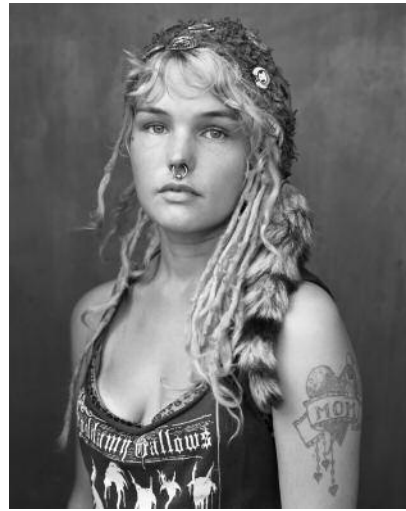
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