



NEW RELEASE

## Michael Sherwin *Vanishing Points*

Essays by Josh Garrett-Davis, Kirsten Rian, Michael Sherwin

Designed by Elana Schlenker

Hardcover

30 x 24 cm

172 pages

87 color ills.

English

ISBN 978-3-96900-010-6

Euro 45,00 / US\$ 58.00

### Reflections on culture, spirituality and the Indigenous American landscape

*Vanishing Points* is a long-term photography project that focuses on significant sites of Indigenous American presence, including sacred landforms, earthworks, documented archaeological sites and contested battlegrounds. The book combines beautiful large format landscape images with smaller still lifes of objects and debris collected at the sites, along with a detailed index including titles and captions. The combination of photographs presented in this book operate as literal and metaphorical vanishing points. They reflect on the monuments modern culture will leave behind and what the archeological evidence of our civilization will reveal about our time on earth.

From the essay *Filament* by Kirsten Rian:

»Push a shovel into the soil anywhere in the United States and there's a story to tell. One you probably don't know, were never taught in any history class, will probably die not knowing. But know it's there. Like life and death. Grief and loss. Sherwin's images aren't necessarily meant to be beautiful, though many of them are. Light still pours from the sky and spills across grasslands and hills, no matter what battles trampled that very plot of earth centuries earlier. Clouds move along a horizon, trees anchor the sightline. Truth and lies. Light and dark. All at once.«

From the essay *Wandering | Wondering* by Michael Sherwin:

»Shortly after moving to Morgantown, West Virginia, I discovered that a local shopping center had been built upon an 800-year-old sacred burial ground and village site associated with the Monongahelan culture. I'd frequently shopped at the Centre, and this new revelation transformed my understanding of the landscape and place I called home. Reflected in the scene in front of me was

*an ancient, spiritually important and hallowed landscape clouded by the tangible constructions of modern Western culture. In an effort to reckon with this conflict, I was compelled to photograph the site, and the resulting image held a mysterious duality. While the photograph is always rooted to the present moment, it can also connect to something ancient, alluding to what has happened. A photograph displays what is there and what is not there—a mirror and a memory.«*

**Michael Sherwin** is a multimedia artist based in the Appalachian Mountains of northern West Virginia. He has won numerous grants and awards for his work and has exhibited widely, including recent exhibitions at the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center, Morris Museum of Art, Huntington Museum of Art, and the Center for Fine Art Photography among others. Reviews and features of his work have been published in *Art Papers* magazine, *Oxford American Magazine*, *Prism* magazine, *Medium's Vantage* and *National Public Radio*. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Art in the School of Art and Design at West Virginia University. [www.michaelsherwin.com](http://www.michaelsherwin.com)

**Kirsten Rian** is an independent photography curator, visual artist, university professor, and writer. She is widely published as a journalist, essayist, and poet, and the author of three notable books.

**Josh Garrett-Davis'** writing has appeared in such publications as the *New York Times*, *High Country News*, *South Dakota History*, *California History*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among other places. Currently, Josh is the Gamble Associate Curator at the *Autry Museum of the American West* in Los Angeles.

#### 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 SIXTEE 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](mailto:barbara.karpf@kehrerverlag.com)

[pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com](mailto:pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com)

Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany

Fon ++49 (0)6221/649 20-18 | Fax ++49 (0)6221/64920-20

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

## Press images



01 Eagle Feather, Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark, Bighorn National Forest, WY  
© Michael Sherwin



02 John Wayne Point, Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, NM  
© Michael Sherwin



03 Prairie Juniper, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, ND  
© Michael Sherwin



04 Shrum Mound, Columbus, OH  
© Michael Sherwin



05 Antelope House Ruins, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, AZ  
© Michael Sherwin



06 Big Bottom Massacre State Memorial, Morgan County, OH  
© Michael Sherwin



07 Stockade Wall, Fort Phil Kearney State Historic Site, Banner, WY  
© Michael Sherwin



08 Mural, Point Pleasant Riverfront Park, Point Pleasant, WV  
© Michael Sherwin



09 George Washington, Black Hills National Forest, Keystone, SD  
© Michael Sherwin



10 Laundry, Indian Mound Campground, New Marshfield, OH  
© Michael Sherwin



11 Suncrest Towne Centre, Morgantown, WV  
© Michael Sherwin



12 Wild Horses and Road, Crow Indian Reservation, MT  
© Michael Sherwin



13 Artifacts – Foam Ball  
© Michael Sherwin



14 Artifacts – Insect Killer  
© Michael Sherwin



15 Artifacts – Matchbox Car  
© Michael Sherwin



16 Artifacts – Party Shaker  
© Michael Sherwin