

Harvey Stein

Mexico **Between Life and Death**

Photographs and text by Harvey Stein
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In his masterful photo series Harvey Stein explores a country of incredible contrasts and contradictions.

During fourteen trips between 1993 and 2010, Harvey Stein photographed in Mexico, primarily in small towns and villages and mostly during festivals (Day of the Dead, Easter, Independence Day) that highlight the country's unique relationship to death, myth, ritual and religion.

This book is the definitive expression of Stein's intimate relationship with the people and culture of Mexico. The images show fragments of what Mexico is, a country of incredible contrasts and contradictions. Mexico is about piercing light and deep shadow, of stillness and quick explosiveness, of massive tradition and creeping progress, of great religious belief but with corruption as a way of life. It is a land of ritual and legend, of vibrant life and dancing skeletons, a country next to the United States yet so far away, and with over 50 percent of its population under 20 years old but where old age is revered. In this masterful photo series Stein explores these unsettling disparities.

»Mexicans often view death as a natural part of life, an attitude derived from the Aztecs, Toltecs, and the Mayans. For the people of ancient Mexico, death was not an end, but merely a stage in a continuous cycle. Death meant to be reborn. Mexicans still consider death as a step beyond; it is a change, a transformation; the soul travels to lead another life, another experience. Many of the photographs explore Mexican's vigorous attachment to life, and to a reluctant acceptance of the presence of death.«

– Harvey Stein

Harvey Stein is a professional photographer, teacher, lecturer, author and curator based in New York City. He currently teaches

at the International Center of Photography. Stein is a frequent lecturer on photography both in the United States and abroad. He is the Director of Photography at Umbrella Arts Gallery, located in the East Village of Manhattan. He has also been a member of the faculty of the School of Visual Arts, New School University, Drew University, Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Bridgeport.

Stein's photographs are in more than 57 permanent collections, including the George Eastman House, Bibliotheque Nationale, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the International Center of Photography, the Denver Museum of Art, the Carnegie Museum of Art (Pittsburgh), the Portland (Oregon) Museum of Art, the Portland (Maine) Museum of Art, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Addison Gallery of American Art, and among others, the corporate collections of Johnson & Johnson, Hewlett Packard, LaSalle Bank (Chicago), Barclay Bank and Credit Suisse. *Mexico – Between Life and Death* is his 8th book.

harveysteinphoto.com

Exhibitions

Tammy Cromer Gallery, Dallas, Texas
 December 8, 2018 – January 19, 2019

Galeria Photo / Graphic, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
 Spring 2019

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Press images



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2 Woman Outside Window, San Miguel de Allende, 1995
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3 Two Men Wearing Sombreros, Atotonilco, 1997
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4 Man in President Fox Mask and Sombrero, Etna, 2001
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5 Man and Long Shadow from Above, Taxco, 2009
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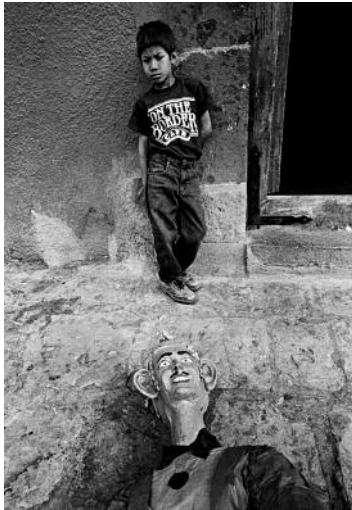
6 Woman and Child on Bus, Veracruz, 2007
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7 Man Putting on Guadalupe Shirt, Mexico City, 2000
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8 Holding Jesus, Taxco, 2003
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9 Boy with Effigy on Ground, San Miguel de Allende, 1999
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10 Boy with Outstretched Arm and Pumpkin, Morelia, 1999
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11 Two Women Passing Each Other, San Miguel de Allende, 1993
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