New Deal Photography USA 1933 - 1943
Another country: How the Farm Security Administration introduced America to Americans

Peter Walther,

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Amid the ravages of the Great Depression, the United States Farm Security Administration (FSA) was first founded in 1935 to address the country's rural poverty. Its efforts focused on improving the lives of sharecroppers, tenants, and very poor landowning farmers, with resettlement and collectivization programs, as well as modernized farming methods. In a parallel documentation program, the FSA hired a number of photographers and writers to record the lives of the rural poor and "introduce America to Americans."

This book records the full reach of the FSA program from 1935 to 1943, honoring its vigor and commitment across subjects, states, and stylistic preferences. The photographs are arranged into four broad regional sections but otherwise allowed to speak for themselves-to provide individual impressions as much as they cumulatively build an indelible survey of a nation. Through color and black-and-white images, we meet convicts, cotton workers, kids on the street, and relocated workers on the road. We see subjects victim to the elements of nature and the timeless rituals of human life, as much as to the vagaries of the global economic market. We meet Dorothea Lange's iconic Migrant Mother, weather-beaten and worn, with two children leaning on her shoulders.

What unites all of the pictures is a commitment to the individuality and dignity of each subject, as much as to the witness they bear to this particular period of the American past and to universal cycles of growing, playing, eating, aging, ailing, and dying. Through the lenses of such perceptive, sensitive photographers as Dorothea Lange, Jack Delano, Russell Lee, Marion Post Wolcott, Walker Evans, and Ben Shahn, subjects are entrenched in the hardships of their historical lot, caught in the loop of humanity, and yet face the viewer with what is utterly their own: a unique, irreplaceable, often unforgettable presence.

Available on Amazon
13 Presidents
Marisa J. Futernick 09/01/2016
In 2014, Marisa J. Futernick drove nearly ten thousand miles across America, visiting all thirteen of the country’s Presidential libraries along the way. 13 PRESIDENTS is the result: an artist’s book that combines photographs from the journey with a suite of short stories. Mixing fact and fiction, each President from Herbert Hoover to George W. Bush is a protagonist in this collection of unexpected portraits. The photographs, shot on analogue film, depict the everyday details of the towns that these men are from, including the homes where they were born, and their final resting places. 13 PRESIDENTS weaves together personal narrative with wider cultural observation, forming a vision of America that is both fact and fiction.

Toward a New Deal in Baltimore: People and Government in the Great Depression.
Argersinger, Jo Ann.

The Samstag Legacy: An Artist’s Bequest. Chapter 4 done by Lea Rosson Delong (NNDPA member from Des Moines, Iowa) presents the Samstag’s New Deal Murals in North Carolina & New York. This book was published March 2016 by the Samstag Museum of Art at the University of South Australia in Adelaide as part of their 25th anniversary.