

Story and Technique

BY JIM CORNFIELD

The Photographer's Black & White Handbook

HAROLD DAVIS

MONACELLI STUDIO | 240 PP.



For years, it's been our collective good fortune that Harold Davis—photographer, author and artist—periodically gathers into book form his spot-on, original thoughts about the art and the science of our craft. These have included his scrupulous takes on composition, lighting, landscapes, portraits, night photography, close-ups and HDR technique, among others. Davis can cover a mega-topic like “achieving your potential as a digital shooter,” then pivot like a wide receiver to an epicurean specialty like photographing

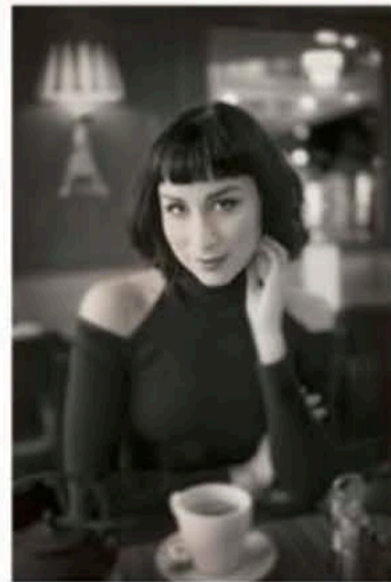
water drops. And now comes the newly released *The Photographer's Black and White Handbook*, his personal approach to the cornerstone of the photographic genome: black-and-white imaging.

In the color-obsessed digital universe, black-and-white functionalities reach beyond the limited powers of a desaturation slider. Davis surveys these in detail, from converting images in Lightroom or Photoshop Layer Stack, to exploring virtual pixel-based theme parks like Nik Silver Efex Pro and Topaz B&W Effects. Then there are the scores of other tools that surround monochrome digital imaging, beginning with fundamentals—pre-visualizing a shot in black and white, for instance—and on up through a hierarchy of enhancements like extending dynamic range, tinting, split toning, antique simulations and beyond.

Perhaps this book's most compelling hallmark is its editorial skew. It's as much about communication as it is about technique, with emphasis on the stories that accompany Davis' powerful photos. Techniques, he insists throughout the book, don't function in a vacuum. “Photography involves narrative,” he writes, “telling a story...is a crucial component of creating compelling black-and-white images.”

PRICE: \$35

+ monacellipress.com



ABOVE: In *The Photographer's Black & White Handbook*, Harold Davis unveils a universe of digital conversion tools as they apply to all genres, emphasizing not only technique but the unique editorial backstory that accompanies each of his powerful illustrations.

L'Enfant-Femme

RANIA MATAR

INTRODUCTION BY HER MAJESTY QUEEN NOOR OF JORDAN

DAMIANI EDITORE | 152 PP.



There's a brief time in every girl's life between childhood and adolescence when her entire world seems to hold its breath. Rania Matar is a student of that moment, as a woman and as a gifted artist and portrait photographer.

Matar's latest monograph, *L'Enfant-Femme*, celebrates the flawlessly complexioned beauty of 97 girls at this intersection in their lives, endearing with their self-conscious expressions and awkward attempts to position delicate arms and legs for the camera. They're an eclectic ethnic mix, clearly selected that way by Matar. There's not a smile in the bunch, but the resolute looks in their eyes behind all that touching fragility create a passionate visual essay on nascent womanhood. It is a potent cross-cultural, multiracial bond, and through Matar's viewfinder, it becomes even stronger.

PRICE: \$58

+ damianieditore.com

A Beautiful Anarchy

When the Life Creative Becomes the Life Created

DAVID DUCHEMIN | ROCKY NOOK | 184 PP.



There are no photographs in *A Beautiful Anarchy*, and in one way that's a shame. Author David duChemin is a skilled, acutely perceptive shooter and color stylist, comfortable shooting in far reaches of the planet, and, from all appearances, singularly intrepid, especially in the wild. His latest title is concerned less with images and more with the interesting vagaries of his personal journey. The

book describes framing one's life in the manner of a creative narrative. It's a lucidly written, interesting read, and—if you're overdue for some serious introspection—a relevant model to consider for your own journey.

PRICE: \$19.95

+ rockynook.com