

George F. Thompson Publishing, L.L.C.
217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.
www.gftbooks.com

BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (2.7.20)

Author (as it should appear on the book): Tom Young

Title: *Our Time on Earth*

Subtitle: [none]

Contributor: Essay by Aprile Gallant

Partner: Published in association with the Center for the Study of Place

Book pages: 152

Number and type of illustrations: 83 color photographs by the author

Trim size: 12.0 x 12.0 inches square

List price: \$50.00

Discount: trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-938086-77-9

ISBNs (electronic): [TC]

Edition: Hardcover/PLC with jacket

E-book? yes

Interactive e-book? no

Jacket: yes

Edition size: 1,000

Publication date: October 15, 2020

Advances due: September 15, 2020

To warehouse: October 1, 2020

Printed in: Singapore

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Bookstore categories (list three): Art/Photography/Environment

Audience: Connoisseurs and collectors of fine-art photography and anyone interested in the environment and our place in the world should be attracted to this book.

Selling points (list three): (1) Tom Young is an important and distinguished photographer, and this is his fourth book with GFT; (2) the concern over our environment remains as strong as ever and no photographer has rendered our recent time on Earth like Tom Young; and (3) this book represents a kind of visual opera in ten parts in which each section reveals new ways of looking at what we have done to our environment and the places we call home.

Tagline: Tom Young's most ambitious photo book to date renders our time on Earth in new ways.

Description of the work:

Wide-ranging and operatic in scale and in scope, *Our Time on Earth*—Tom Young’s fourth book—is an intuitive gaze at the mystery, promise, and condition of human life on Earth in 2020. In an expansive collection of eighty-three new photographs, artfully sequenced into thematic parts, Young brings to us a visual narrative that simultaneously hints at the apocalyptic unfolding of contemporary life while offering reverential hope for a better world.

Through a collision of images as minute as a molded snow globe, as expansive as a roiling ocean, and as haunting as steam belching from the tower of a nuclear power plant, Young brings the reader on an epic journey. Here one finds the prayerful silence of a goat at peace in a freshly dug grave, the human tableaux of young people amidst the drenching power of water, and the simple magnificence of moving water frozen into icy stillness. Here as well one finds disturbing aspects of the human mosaic to be found in the common places of everyday life, from a school bus abandoned in a vast mined landscape to a collapsing building in the shape of a large cat.

In Tom Young’s universe, juxtaposition tells a story while the precise rendering of a moment in time speaks to the mystery of creation and the devotion of a photographer trying to understand a complicated world. As curator Aprile Gallant observes in her insightful essay: “The images build upon the other, veering from macro to micro, from vegetable, animal, and mineral to welded, constructed, and manufactured . . . The aggregate of viewing is an awareness of the deep interconnectedness of humans and their environment, a drama that plays out in equally beneficial and devastating ways.”

Our Time on Earth plays knowingly off the idea that human endeavors on the planet can be as brief as the beat of a hummingbird’s wing and as long-lasting as mercury and lead embedded in a local river or stream. The question thus arises as to how the traces we leave behind from our time on Earth will reverberate as we move forward to the next generation and the next and the next.

Blurbs:

[TC]

About the Author:

Tom Young is Professor of Art Emeritus at Greenfield Community College whose photographs are included in more than thirty permanent collections, including the Amon Carter Museum, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Center for Creative Photography, George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, High Museum of Art, Polaroid International Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Yale University Art Gallery. Young’s photographs have also appeared in more than eighty exhibitions worldwide, including those at

the International Center of Photography, Frans Hals Museum, Kunsthalle, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Caracas, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, and Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. His previous books of photographs are *Backscatter: Between Here and There* (George F. Thompson, 2016), *Timeline: Learning to See with My Eyes Closed* (George F. Thompson, 2012), and *Recycled Realities*, with John Willis (Center for American Places, 2006).

About the Contributor:

Aprile Gallant is Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs and Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Smith College Museum of Art, where she is also responsible for the administration of the Cunningham Center for the Study of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs. In this capacity she is the primary curator in charge of SCMA's 24,000-piece works-on-paper collection. She has also played an integral part in the development of the overall collections and programs, including exhibitions on topics ranging from American prints (*Defiant Vision: Prints & Poetry by Munio Makuuchi*, 2019) and artist's books (*Too Much Bliss: Twenty Years of Granary Books*, 2006) to contemporary photography (*Photographing Undomesticated Interiors*, 2003). She has been an active member of the Print Council of America since 1999.