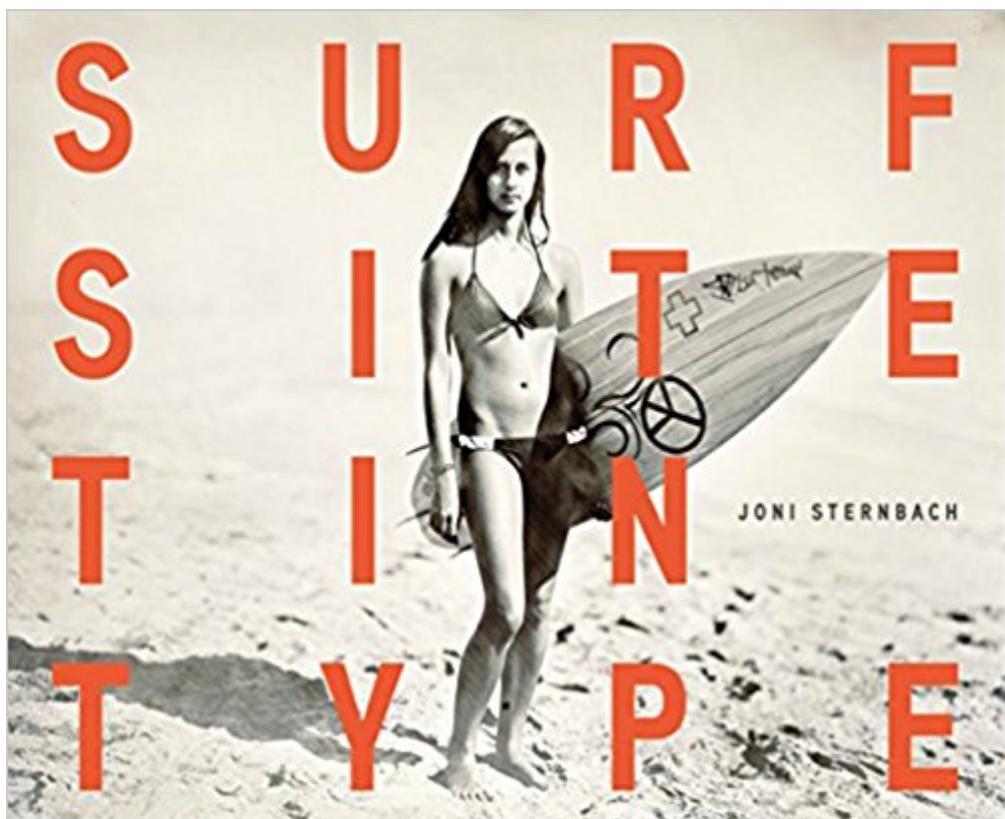


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Joni Sternbach: Surf Site Tin Type



Synopsis

Surf Site Tin Type is an homage to a sport, a way of life, and a tribute to the people who practice it. Over the past decade Brooklyn-based photographer Joni Sternbach has traveled around the world, creating tintype portraits of contemporary surfers using the nineteenth-century wet-plate collodion process. Stunning in their detail, these one-of-a-kind images evoke the romance and adventure of surfing, and the bold individualism of the men and women who live to ride the waves. Working with a large-format camera and using hand-poured plates that are prepared and developed on location, Sternbach has profiled a fascinating range of surfers, both well known and unknown, on prized surfing beaches. Locations include Montauk and Malibu in the United States, Byron Bay in Australia and Cornwall in England. Typical surfing photographs are action shots, riding the mighty wave and in vivid color, whereas Sternbach turns to a historic technique to capture something essential and even primordial in the portraits and settings, recalling a tradition of nineteenth-century anthropological photography. Surf Site Tin Type features texts by noted photo critic and historian Lyle Rexer, curator April M. Watson, and Chris Malloy and Johnny Abegg, both well-known surfers and filmmakers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like surfing, Sternbach's work is unique and performative. Her studio is the beach; her exposed tintype plates processed in a chemical "fixer" bath in daylight for all to see. Like individual wave rides, each of her images is enhanced by varying and unpredictable conditions.

(Yahoo News)nostalgic and clear-eyed, romantic and dispassionate. (Diane Cardwell The New York Times, Lens)In the wrong hands the length of the exposure and development process the relationship with the subject can turn tense, but here she maintains a graceful balance of trust that leads to gripping images. For this project the wet-plate process truly shines, conceptually as well as aesthetically. (Evan L. Onwardphoto.org)With its oversized dimensions, Surf Site Tin Type is probably better suited for a place of pride on your coffee table versus a day on the sand, but this book is a must for any and all beach lovers. It's a beautiful ode to the surf life from photographer Joni Sternbach, who spent the past decade capturing portraits of contemporary surfers around the world. What makes this such a stunner is Sternbach's use of tintypes — a 19th-century wet-plate, on-site form of photography whose resulting patina adds a romance and artistry to her images; it's a refreshing and welcome move in today's digital quick-snapshot terrain. (The Editors Tory Daily)

This book is pure poetry. Although the subject matter is surfing, the photographs are portrait photography at its best, a window into the soul, of not just the subject, but the environment at large. It's a meandering sublime journey of sun baked long boarders in another dimension.

Nothing short of awesome! The oldests of photo taking processes applied to portraits of the surfing world. The perfect gift for the photographer and surfer... Buy this book! Joni Steinerbach is a genius at this art form..

perfect business

It's a beautiful work, with impeccable printing, and it represents quite an achievement for Joni. At first, I was not sure what to think of the use of the tin types, but after spending more time with the book, it all began to jell and get better with each subsequent viewing. As stated by others, the process lends a kind of lost-in-time quality to photographs that are also very much of the present. What really impressed me was Joni's ability to work with her subjects -- the portraiture is at such a high level: the way people hold their bodies, grip their boards, arrange their hands, and compose their faces for the camera. Her images help convey the visual essence of surfers who, like myself, are deeply tethered to wave-riding and the embrace of the sea. It may not at first seem obvious, but I think it can be argued that Joni's book makes a perfect companion to William Finnegan's justly celebrated "Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life."

This is a beautiful, soulful book that captures the introspective, quiet heart of surfing and surfers -- the part the flashy magazines and websites don't cover. If you're a surfer, this book is a must have. If you're not a surfer, enjoy the beautiful images and the loveliness of this book as a physical object. (And who knows -- maybe it will inspire you

This is one of my favorite photography books ever. Joni's work is awe inspiring. The tintype process has exploded since she began working with it and I think her images of modern surfers make the most amazing tintype subjects! I love how all the logos are in reverse.

This book is amazing! Joni Sternbach's photographs in this tintype process are totally unique. She has created a vision of the surf world that most of us have not seen. She is a master of her art and craft!

Beautiful photography and beautifully crafted book. The quality is superb. It is my new coffee table centerpiece.

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