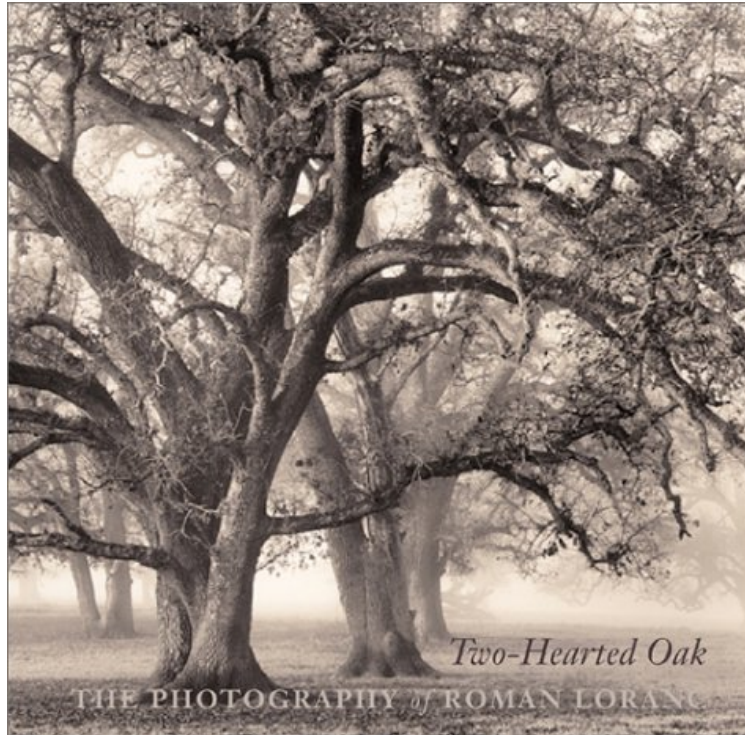


(Ebook pdf) Two-Hearted Oak: The Photography of Roman Loranc

## Two-Hearted Oak: The Photography of Roman Loranc

Lillian Vallee

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**Lillian Vallee : Two-Hearted Oak: The Photography of Roman Loranc** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Two-Hearted Oak: The Photography of Roman Loranc:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a great photo book that offers a nice portrait of central ...By Michael McKeeThis is a great photo book that offers a nice portrait of central California in the late 90s and early 00s. Some of the pictures with fog in them are haunting. The photos are well done and the essays compliment each chapter well. The images are a slightly sepia tinted black and white and are well printed.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not a deep example of his talent.By 5x7 formatA somewhat narrow view of Roman's exceptional talent. He has spent a great deal of time in north-central California and this work seems to just knock on the door of his negative files, but not open them much more than a crack. Published in 2003, a full decade of his work prior to publishing deserves more than what this tome delivers.Good quality publishing, but the printed pictures seldom deliver the full promise of Duotone in the bound format they selected. Good quality thread binding down the gutter, and a nice frontispiece. The tinting on several of the photographs is a bit over the top, and occasionally detracts from the spirit and soul of the scenes. The Pyro stain Roman likes to use is evident in just a few of the pictures, and its deep personality instantly resonates with the reader.Ponderous poetry throughout adds more colorful threads to the fabric of this work.For a book that is as light as it is, and originally priced at \$39.95 for seventy-six 12x12 inch pages, I cannot understand why anyone would pay anywhere close to the \$200 often advertised. My bargain purchase of \$72+ left me feeling a little shortchanged. Unless one is a dedicated collector and must have this for their collection, I would recommend curling up with this book for a few hours at the library, and keep your cash folded.9 of 10 people found

the following review helpful. Two Hearts: One Vision By Craig Carlson In 1926, a 24 year old Ansel Adams was introduced to poet the Robinson Jeffers. "Return" A little to abstract, a little to wise It is time to kiss the earth again, It is time to let the leaves rain from the skies, Let the rich life run to the roots again... Jeffers's word songs impressed Adams and gave him moral direction and navigation to find a subject to photograph. Conveniently, Roman Loranc's muse is his spouse Lillian Vallee. Her poetry is readable, but abstract enough to create a contrasting dialogue with 70 or so pages of well made black white landscape photographs. Roman Loranc's subject is the California's northern central valley - a space mostly occupied by row crops, orchards, cattle, and grape vines. What is interesting about Loranc's photographs is the atmospheric quality of the images. His compositions are concerned with as much above the oak as the oak itself. Landscape photography which captures a moment, rather than description and texture is the brass ring of this art. It is a difficult maneuver to arrest gesture from the land. It's like finding life in a fossil, water on Mars. The portfolio of images are of an idyllic vision of the space and subject. On page 57, "Bare Trees by the River, Cosumnes River, 2000, reminds me of Michael Kenna's photographs of French classic water sculpture, "Chariot of Apollo, Study I, Versailles, France, 1988. I can almost make out the inverted water reflection of horse shapes in the Cosumnes image. The landscape photographer's lot in the field is made by the decision of how an image will form in the camera. The choice of lens, film and developer is a calculated workflow which ultimately doles out success or failure. Loranc's use of a slightly longer than normal focal length compresses far space to the near. His choice of Nikon glass generates more contrast which makes his use of Pyro for developing negatives a good choice. Especially for hardened cloudscapes as on page 1, "Private Road with Clouds, Stanislaus County, 1993. It is bizarre that Loranc's Oaks also produce the gall nut which is the prime ingredient of Pyro(gallol) he uses to process his negatives of Oak trees. The production values of the book are excellent. The paper choice emulates the glossy photographic paper dried matt of the contemporary west coast print maker. The colophon does not indicate how many plates were used per image for reproducing Loranc's split toned prints, but I suspect a minimum of three. This would allow a close reproduction of sepia and selenium toned prints plus room for one additional plate for spot varnish which is used to deposit extra density to the 3/4 quarter tone portions of the screens. This book would be a fine addition to the library of any serious student of photography. It is a welcomed book on black white landscape photography which are few like the great Oaks of the California landscape. Copyright Craig Carlson 2004. carlson1@mail.sdsu.edu

The Central Valley is the heart and soul of *Two-Hearted Oak*, a collection of photographs by Polish-born photographer Roman Loranc. Eloquent essays and poems by Lillian Vallee complement the photographs. Capturing the drama in places that most people only drive past on their way to another destination, Loranc's photographs shimmer with a vision that is at once romantic and magical, yet tinged with loneliness, melancholy, and longing. But ultimately we feel the artists relationship with the land, a connection that is full of love, beauty, and above all, reverence. These are portraits of places and moments deep in the heart of the Central Valley, places that resonate in the photographers art. Stark visions of freshwater marshes, valley oak woodlands, rain-swollen streams, and other scenes reveal themselves to us. Visually stunning and sometimes ephemeral, they are testaments to the workings of the human heart and psyche. *Two-Hearted Oak* will delight anyone with an appreciation for nature and the art of photography. Roman Loranc's visionary reflections are those of a unique artist whose palette captures light and form and transforms them into images reflecting a depth of feeling rarely found in nature photography. It is a fitting homage to the Central Valley.

" This is, quite simply, the finest book by a contemporary artist that I have ever reviewed." -- John A. Murray, Bloomsbury From the Publisher A Great Valley book. About the Author Roman Loranc (pronounced "Lawrence") was born in 1956 in Bielsko-Biala, Poland, where his interest in photography developed at an early age. He currently lives with his wife, writer Lillian Vallee, in Modesto, California. Known not only for his camera skills but also for his meticulous darkroom technique, his photographs have appeared in View Camera magazine (October 2002) and his work has been exhibited in many public and private galleries. Loranc's work is currently on view at Photography West Gallery in Carmel, California, and the Lexington Art Gallery, LLC, in Lexington, Virginia, among others. A major exhibition of his work will open at the Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite National Park on December 16, 2003 and last until January 27, 2004. Lillian Vallee is a Central Valley poet, an award-winning translator, and an instructor of English at Modesto Junior College.