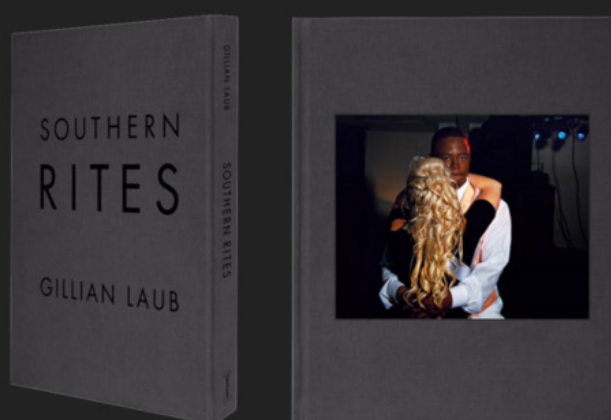


Photobooks of the Year, Part II: 24 Personal Favorites

Selection by a global panel of
Photobook Experts



Southern Rites

by **Gillian Laub**

Published by **Damiani**

Southern Rites is a product of the courage and perseverance of photographer Gilliam Laub. For twelve years she never gave up trying to tell the story of a community in the American South which was struggling to confront longstanding issues of race and inequality. When part of the work was published in May 2009 in the form of a photo-essay about the town's segregated homecoming and prom rituals, the images ignited a firestorm of national outrage.

The imagery is provocative, brave and enlightening. Through her photographs, Laub reveals in vivid color the horror and humanity of these complex, intertwined narratives. The photographer's intimate sensibility ensures that however elevated the ideas and themes may be, her pictures remain studies of individuals. In the end, Laub reveals the individual humanity of the many lives she touched and the deep relationships she forged along the way.

Selection and review by Sarah Leen, Director of Photography, **National Geographic Magazine**