

ARIZONA TRIPS

David Hurn



DAVID HURN: ARIZONA TRIPS

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“I’m in the appreciation field. I just love it all.”

Magnum’s **DAVID HURN** is one of Britain’s most influential documentary photographers, his work characterised by a quiet observation and singular insight. Over a sixty-year career Hurn’s natural inclination has always been less towards hard news stories and more ordinary people in their everyday lives, from Beatles fans to the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1979-80 Hurn was awarded a UK/USA Bicentennial Fellowship, a one-year award to photograph in America. With the whole country to choose from, he opted for Arizona.

“It was the most right-wing state in America and Wales at that time was probably the most left-wing part of the UK. Also it’s the driest state in America and Wales is the wettest. So it seemed to me it was such an extraordinary contrast.”

Hurn returned to Arizona several times between 1979 and 2001 to capture ordinary people in ordinary pursuits. From cheerleading to wild horse wrangling, Dolly Parton look-alike competitions, fraternity dances, arm-wrestling contests and ladies only clubs with nearly-nude male dancers, **ARIZONA TRIPS** is the first book dedicated to Hurn's twenty-year love affair with Arizona.



Released to coincide with Magnum Photo's 70th birthday, **ARIZONA TRIPS** includes an accompanying interview with cultural historian Christopher Frayling. In conversation, Frayling refers to the self-taught Hurn as a 'visual essayist'.

"Life as it unfolds in front of the camera is full of so much complexity, wonder and surprise that I find it unnecessary to create new realities, there is more pleasure, for me, in things as they are."



DAVID HURN (b.1934) is a self-taught photographer. His natural inclination has always been less towards hard news and more ordinary people in their everyday lives. In 1956, he hitchhiked to Budapest to photograph the city during the Hungarian revolution and the resulting pictures were published in *Life* and *Picture Post*, helping to launch his career as a successful freelance visual essayist. He became a member of Magnum Photos in 1965. In the early 1970s, he set up the renowned School of Documentary Photography in Newport College of Art, Wales. He still conducts a few selected lectures and workshops. He has published a number of books, including the seminal textbook, *On Being a Photographer*. In 2016, he was awarded an honorary fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society. He continues to live and work from his home in Tintern, Wales.

A selection of works from Hurn's private collection will be on display for the first time at **NATIONAL MUSEUM CARDIFF FROM 30 SEPTEMBER 2017 – 11 MARCH 2018**, in *Swaps: Photographs from the David Hurn Collection of Photography*.

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