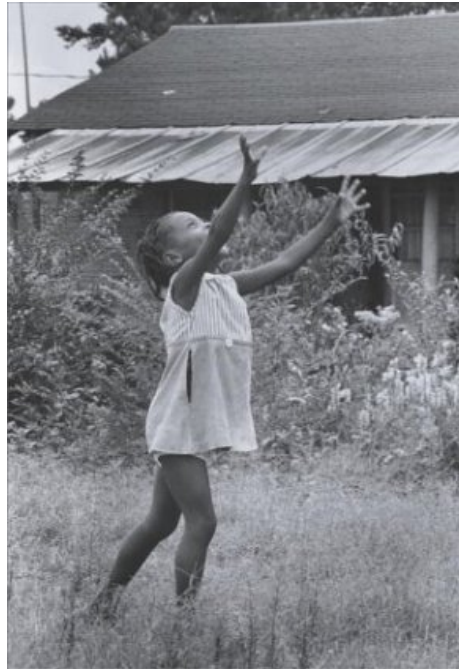


(Mobile ebook) Echo of the Spirit: A Photographers Journey

## Echo of the Spirit: A Photographers Journey

*Chester Higgins*


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*Echo  
of the  
Spirit*

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S  
JOURNEY

CHESTER  
HIGGINS JR.

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#1594763 in Books 2004-10-19 2004-10-19 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .82 x 9.291, #File Name: 0385509782208 pages | File size: 27.Mb

**Chester Higgins : Echo of the Spirit: A Photographers Journey** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Echo of the Spirit: A Photographers Journey:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. "The Spirit informs my daily living."By Luan Gaines Drawn to the powerful images of the Civil Rights Era, photographer Chester Higgins, Jr. had his own story to tell, one of positive change in the African-American community. While others photographed the great culture clash of the Civil Rights Movement, Higgins saw events from another perspective, images of triumph, joy and appreciation of a rich and varied culture. Alongside the violence and rage of the Movement, he portrayed the courage behind these efforts, the importance of family and a community commitment to the future of the next generation. Echo of the Spirit is a series of black and white photographs that are sensitively rendered by the author/photographer, his shared reflections adding to the rhythmic narrative. Higgins defines his personal journey in two parts: first, "Within the Blood", a retrospective from childhood that speaks to the cultural values of family and personal memories; and second, "Water of Change", the author's adult perspective, traveling through Africa, emphasizing the life-changing awareness of ancestry, his role as a citizen of the world. As a child preacher in Alabama, Higgins spoke his own spiritual language, his love of God evident in page after page of photographs, each enhanced by the intimate perspective of one man's role in a rapidly changing world. Higgins' prose is haunting, poetic, sharing his love of family through the stories he heard since childhood, surrounded by loving relatives. A guiding Spirit is elementary in Higgins' life. Although he ignored his calling for a few years, spirituality hovered nearby, waiting patiently for a reawakening. Through his art, these incredibly powerful photographs, Higgins "had become a different kind of evangelist on another kind of crusade." The chapters that deal with the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement are painful, the narrative marked by the tension and fear endemic to any change in society. Yet, in contrast, the black and white photographs clearly witness the strength of

a people determined to forge ahead, comforting one another through their trials. P.H. Polk, Arthur Rothstein, Cornell Capa and Romare Bearden were all influential as Higgins' career evolved, mentors, guides and friends, but the eye is distinctly that of the author, his images arresting for their exceptional quality and as a reflection of the humanity that imbues his work. Slowly redirecting his energies toward recognizing his African heritage, Higgins' body of work is transformed by his maturity, an understanding of all the facets of life today, personal memory as well as cultural identity. In the end, Higgins makes a "declaration" of himself and his place in the world, a visual history of all he has learned over the years. I cannot recommend this collection enough. It is a joy to leaf through page after page of evocative images, the beauty of landscape and ancestral recognition caught in the flash of a moment. The thoughtful personal commentary brings the spirit of this artist alive in a satisfying meeting of art and personality, a treasure of one man's commitment to his time on this earth. Luan Gaines/2004.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Visual Journey By The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers Whenever I make a photograph I try to capture the signature of the Spirit, Unseen, but ever manifesting itself. The Spirit sustains and enriches what is inside every thing. The Spirit informs my daily living. -- Chester Higgins, Jr. Chester Higgins, New York Times photographer, uses an intimate, moving narrative, brought to life with stunning photographs, to capture and celebrate the most defining qualities of people, places, and events. ECHO OF THE SPIRIT is Higgins' most personal work to date. The photographs are rich in spirit and memory, and the text is simple but elegant. He focuses on the significant people and events of his own life. Higgins shares his boyhood days as a preacher in New Brockton, Alabama, tells of family members who shaped his life, trips to Ghana, Brazil and Haiti, and pays tribute to his mentors at Look Magazine. Higgins was reared by his mother and stepfather, but was heavily influenced by his grandfather, who wanted him to follow in his footsteps as a minister. After his grandfather's death, Higgins rebuked the idea of preaching the gospel. As such his photographs became the medium he used to speak to the masses. Photography is his tool to discover and acknowledge the echo of the Spirit. But he could not erase his grandfather's influence, the years as a childhood minister illuminate the passion he brings to his photographs. ECHO OF THE SPIRIT is a remarkable look at a creative life and the cultural history that complimented it. In a word this book is AWESOME! This is an excellent coffee table book. (RAW Rating: 4.5) Reviewed by a NN of The RAWSISTAZ Reviewers

In stunning photographs and an intimate, moving narrative, award-winning New York Times photographer, Chester Higgins, chronicles his forty-year quest to capture and celebrate the singular, defining qualities of people, places, and events. As a New York Times photographer, Higgins has taken glorious, one-of-a-kind pictures of people from all walks of life and covered grim disasters and history-making events. Throughout his career, Higgins has also pursued a more personal mission: in unforgettable photographs, he has documented the history and lives of people of African American and African descent. ECHO OF THE SPIRIT is Higgins' most personal work to date. In photographs rich in spirit and memory and a simple but elegant text, he focuses on the significant people and events of his own life, from his days as a boyhood preacher in New Brockton, Alabama, where he was reared by his mother and stepfather, to his first encounters with the works of great photographers during his student years, to his emergence as a highly respected and much admired photojournalist. There are images and memories of his favorite great uncle, Forth, who died at the age of 107, and of his aunt Shug, a masterful quilt maker. He pays tribute to his mentors P. H. Polk, Cornell Capa, Gordon Parks, Romare Bearden, and Arthur Rothenstein at Look magazine describing their lessons and their influence on his work. Higgins' extraordinary ability to get to the spirit of things the essence of what makes people and places come alive, makes them interesting, beautiful, or ugly resonates throughout ECHO OF THE SPIRIT. It is a remarkable look at a creative life and the cultural history that shaped it.

From Publishers Weekly Celebrating the African diaspora in 70 bw photos, esteemed New York Times photojournalist Higgins links past to future in two sections ("Within the Blood" and "Water of Change") comprising 28 chapters, each consisting of one- to 10-page anecdotes that balance and elucidate the lively images (though the eloquent, intimate prose is often the standout). The first section captures family life in the rural South during the 1950s ("My Great Aunt Shugg Lampley Praying Before Going to Sleep"), as well as mentors and influences, including P.H. Polk, Romare Bearden and International Center of Photography founder Cornell Capa. Higgins's aspirations as a young photographer were assured and pointed, and spoke to contemporary issues ("our media show no positive images of black people," he said in 1970). Political and spiritual elements infuse pictures of students at Tuskegee University demonstrating during the Civil Rights movement and a proud Asante chief in Kumasai, Ghana, as well as an excavated African skeleton found with arms crossed ("the sacred sign of worship") in the downtown New York African Burial Ground. Higgins recommends uncovering one's cultural history to "refocus our future," and he does so with intelligent clarity and spirit. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. The New York Times on ELDER GRACE: The Nobility of Aging His portraits are calculated to appeal by lavishing attention on his subjects and by seeking to apprehend what he calls their shine, or inner light, he captures qualities that continue to make them physically attractive into late age: humor, elegance and dignity. He sums these up in the single word grace. The Los Angeles Times on FEELING THE SPIRIT On page after page the photographer, lyrical and celebratory, disappears

into his subjects. And he pulls us along with him the images repeatedly grow into icons. About the Author CHESTER HIGGINS has been on the staff of The New York Times since 1975. His photographs have also appeared in Artnews, Newsweek, Fortune, Essence, and a number of other magazines and have been featured on CBS Sunday Morning and on several PBS and ABC television programs. He has had one-man shows at the International Center of Photography, the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of African Art, and the Schomburg Center and is the author of Elder Grace, Feeling the Spirit, Sometime Ago, The Drums of Life, and Black Woman. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.