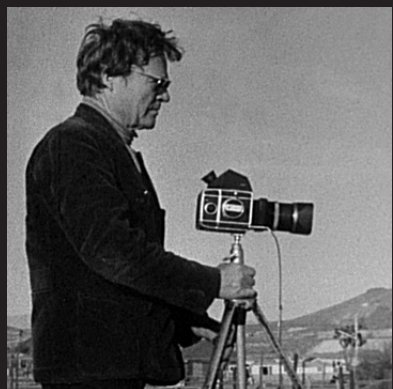
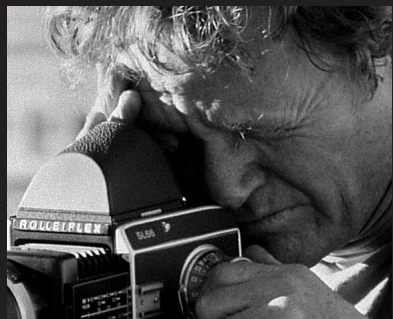
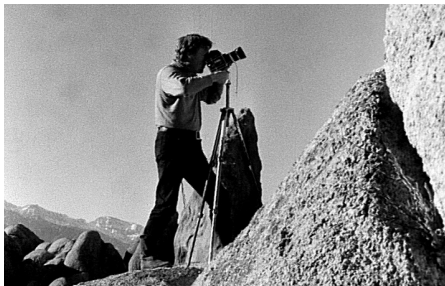


BRETT WESTON: PHOTOGRAPHER

A film by Art Wright



BRETT WESTON: PHOTOGRAPHER follows the photographic life of one of the masters in our photographic heritage. The film examines Weston's way of seeing, from the act of discovery in the field to the final print on the gallery wall—an integrated statement in black-and-white on a photographer whose medium is the black-and-white silver image. With narration by photographic historian Beaumont Newhall. Running time: 30 minutes

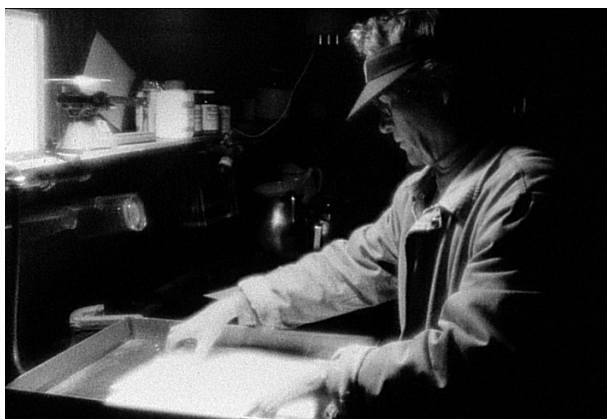


Also included:

- Archival excerpts of audio interviews with Merle Armitage, Beaumont Newhall, Nancy Newhall, Don Ross and Brett Weston
- 892 viewable photographs from the Brett Weston Archive

"I found much of the photography and its contents rich and illuminating and Brett came through as he is – without undue intrusion of the film on its subject . . . should be of real interest to photographers and non-photographers alike"

—Robert Katz



4115 SW Hillsdale Avenue
Portland, OR 97239



BRETT WESTON: PHOTOGRAPHER

Brett Weston was born to photograph. His father, photographer Edward Weston, helped get Brett started when he was 13. A teenage Brett Weston was soon recognized as a photographic prodigy, with imagery quite distinguishable from that of his father. From his early years in Mexico to his death in Hawaii, Brett Weston photographed endlessly and tirelessly. His work may be classified as West Coast "Straight" photography, but his vision is stunningly individual.

This film project began in 1970, along the Oregon Coast, after Brett generously allowed me to tag along with him for a couple of days. I was then a graduate student with a 16mm camera, attempting to document the work and thoughts of this amazing artist, near the peak of his career, whose black-and-white photographs held me in awe. The film begins inside a derelict Oregon sawmill wigwam burner where Brett's interest was piqued by the designs of old fire screens against the sky.

Later, in January of 1971, I headed towards Lake Isabella with Brett and two of his friends on a trip through California and Nevada. It was in California that I began to understand Brett's relentless dedication to capturing images. We camped and he worked along a large arc of photographically fertile land, through Death Valley, the Alabama Hills and Westgard Pass in California and Goldfield in Nevada. His excitement was ever-present, with exultations about an image being "gloacious" or descriptions of new-found "gorp", a moniker used for junk and splashed paint. The film follows him into his darkroom, then accompanies him on a visit to Point Lobos, and concludes with what was then the largest exhibition of his work, at the Friends of Photography in Carmel, California, in late 1971.

The elegance of Brett Weston's photographs are best seen face-to-face. The tonal subtleties and attention to detail are hallmarks of his work. The film attempts to give an idea of the raw, playful humor that accompanies the sophistication of his images. Brett died in Hawaii in 1993, at age 81. — Art Wright



THE AUDIO TRACKS

While making the film in 1971, I interviewed a number of people close to Brett. In the end, only Beaumont Newhall's words were used in the finished film (along with those of Brett Weston, of course). The DVD edition includes relevant pieces of the other interviews.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Brett Weston's work defies easy categorization, but I have attempted to do so anyway. Within the 892 images of Weston's work are 23 categories of places, like "Alaska", "Hawaii", or "New York" as well as more ambiguous collections like "Trees" and "Dunes". There is also a "Brett Memorabilia" category which includes 98 photographs of Brett, his family, and his friends, snapshots mostly, taken throughout his life.

Photographic images were gleaned from 5,600 images at the Brett Weston Archive in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Brett Weston Archive is the repository of much of Weston's work. The Archive generously co-operated with this DVD project by providing a comprehensive overview of the work of Brett Weston.

The experience of viewing these images, scanned for viewing on a television screen, is not the same as viewing an image in a well-lit gallery. Many of Weston's photographs were made with an 8 × 10 or an 11 × 14 inch camera. Of course, these scanned images do not replicate the subtleties of a good silver print. But they serve as samples and, hopefully, as inspiration to see the real thing. For more information, please contact The Brett Weston Archive at:

<http://www.brettwestonarchive.com/>
westonarch@aol.com



To order the DVD within the USA, please send your mailing address and \$25, which includes shipping and handling, to:

Art Wright

4115 SW Hillsdale Ave. • Portland, OR 97239

Name

Organization

Street Address

City

State

ZIP

For more information, or to see a short clip from the film, please visit the website:
<http://www.brettwestonphotographer.com>

For other inquiries, please email
info@brettwestonphotographer.com

or call
503.228.5559

