



Untitled, 1983, by Jerry Uelsmann

# A tale of passion

Reflections on an 'accidental collection' of prints

## THE COLLECTOR'S EYE

A Photographer's View of His Contemporaries  
Frazier King  
SCHILT PUBLISHING (£55)

‘Every passion is chaotic but the collector’s passion borders on the chaos of memories,’ wrote the philosopher Walter Benjamin in his 1931 essay ‘Unpacking my Library’.

Photographer Frazier King’s collection is no different. In 2010 FotoFest, the Houston-based photography and new media art biennial, launched *The Collector’s Eye*, a series of exhibitions about collecting.

Until he was invited to curate the second edition, King had never considered himself to be a collector, describing

the 90 odd prints he owned as an ‘accidental collection’. Most of these prints were made by fellow photographers, some of whom he came across while reviewing portfolios for the FotoFest Meeting Place.

Reflecting on the prints retrospectively, King realised they follow a single thread: they are all “constructed” images, the result of the photographer intervening somehow in the photographic process. Since that exhibition in 2010, he has taken a more deliberate approach to acquiring and curating his prints, although still guided by instinct.

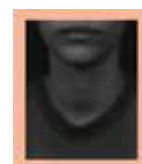
Here King invites us to explore with him his engagement with the images, proving that, as Madeline Yale Preston writes in the book, ‘Building a photography collection is an art form in itself.’



## DERELICT BRITAIN: BEAUTY IN DECAY

Simon Sugden  
AMBERLEY PUBLISHING (£17.99)

Self-taught architectural photographer Simon Sugden, who works part-time for a building company, captures the charm of derelict spaces, from empty mills to abandoned fairgrounds, asylums, schools and synagogues. Broken signage, peeling paint and rusty metal all give a sense of the former life of these spaces and a newfound eerie beauty reveals itself in their tatty textures.



## KEEPER OF THE HEARTH

Odette England (Ed)  
SCHILT PUBLISHING (£55)

This year marks four decades since the publication of Roland Barthes’ *Camera Lucida*, where the great semiotician mused on the power of photography. Here 200 photographers, artists, writers and curators contribute images and texts inspired by a mysterious unseen photograph of Barthes’ mother aged five, which he described in detail but didn’t publish in his influential book.



## PICTURE SUMMER ON KODAK FILM

Jason Fulford  
MACK (£35)

Brooklyn-based photographer, educator and publisher Jason Fulford treats the photography book not simply as a way to present his images, but as an artistic medium in its own right. Sometimes playful, sometimes poetic, his photographs exist in relation to one another. Shot across the world at different times, together they present a distinctive vision.