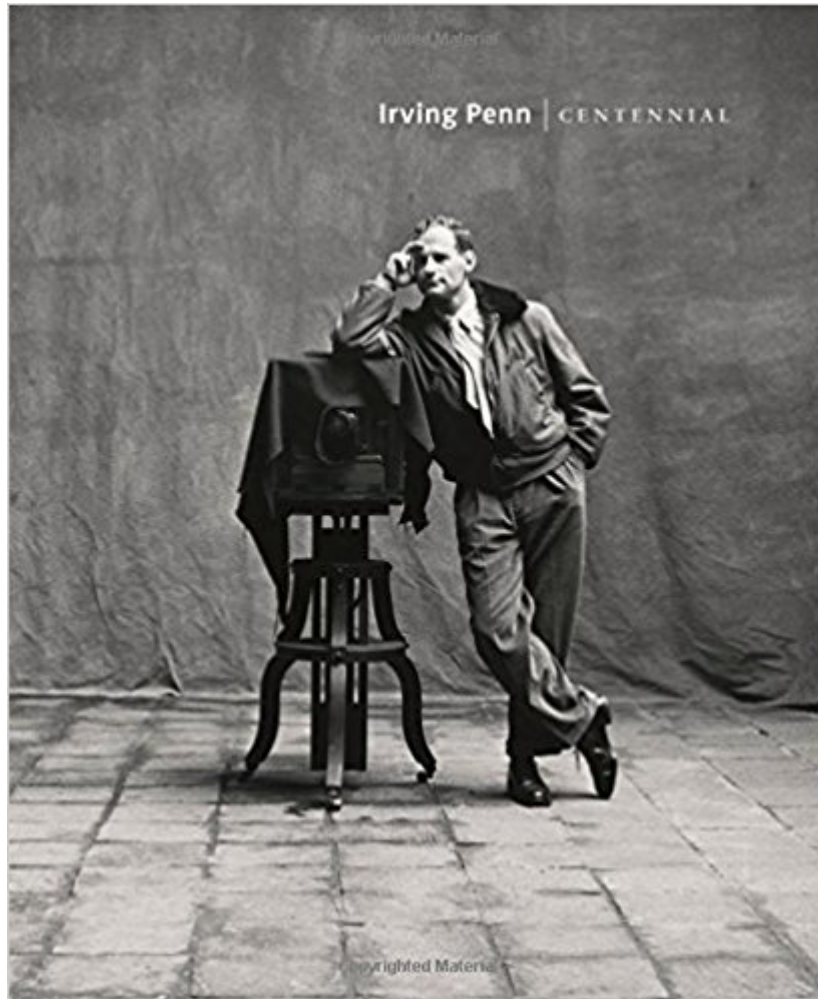




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# Irving Penn: Centennial



## Synopsis

The definitive book on the work of a virtuosic and revered American photographer Irving Penn (1917–2009) was among the most esteemed and influential photographers of the 20th century. Over the course of a nearly seventy-year career, he mastered a pared-down aesthetic of studio photography that is distinguished for its meticulous attention to composition, nuance, and detail. This indispensable book features one of the largest selections of Penn's photographs ever compiled, including famous and beloved images as well as works that have never been published. Celebrating the centennial of Penn's birth, this lavish volume spans the entirety of his groundbreaking career. An enlightening introduction situates his work in the context of the various artistic, social, and political environments and events that affected the content of his photographs. Lively essays acquaint readers with Penn's primary subjects and campaigns, including early documentary scenes and imagery; portraits; fashion; female nudes; peoples of Peru, Dahomey (Benin), New Guinea, and Morocco; still lifes; and much more. *Irving Penn: Centennial* is essential for any fan of this artist's work or the history of 20th-century photography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This stunning catalogue to the Met's centennial exhibition draws out art historical connections within Penn's authoritative, meticulously composed, nuanced oeuvre. This is a vivid social chronicle too, reflecting Penn's long working life as a fashion photographer and portraitist." — Jackie Wullschlager, *Financial Times* "An opulent volume, which represents the most

comprehensive and multi-faceted publication of the photographer's work to date." "Leica Fotografie International

An ideal introduction to the work of a virtuosic and revered American photographer, this lavish book features nearly 400 photographs spanning the entirety of Penn's career.

Beautiful book, and terrific price!

Irving Penn is without question one of the most influential photographers to ever pick up a camera and personally, I don't think this book could have come at a more perfect time. Even tho digital now dominates the photography medium, there has been a slow movement back to film and many of the alternative processes like Platinum printing. Penn loved platinum printing and was largely responsible for the popularity that the process once had. I'm a professional photographer (architectural photographer) and platinum and palladium printing remain 2 of my favorite alternative processes to this day. It was largely Penn that first got me interested in platinum printing and the amazing tonality you get with that process. My favorite aspect to Penn's work was his meticulous attention to composition. Digital is so fast and inexpensive (since there is no film) that a lot of digital photographers just shoot like crazy and hope they catch a great moment of spontaneity. Penn was the exact opposite. His style was the exact opposite of spontaneity. His compositions were masterfully crafted. Everything in the frame was exactly where Penn wanted it to be. Penn's frame was like a jigsaw puzzle and until every piece was exactly where he wanted it, he didn't shoot. And he was an absolute master of composition. There are very few photographers that could go toe to toe with Penn compositionally speaking. He was a true master of the medium. Irving Penn was born in 1917 so 2017 marks the 100 year mark from Irving's birth, hence the name Irving Penn: Centennial. I own most of Irving Penn's previous books and there is no question about it, this is the best Irving Penn book released to date. It combines all of the great Penn pieces one would hope would be in a book like this, but best of all, it also has material that has never been published before so for those like me that already own most of Penn's previous books, there is still a legitimate reason for purchasing this book. You will not be purchasing a book that is full of pictures you already had from previous publications. Bottom line - This book should be considered an absolute must buy by anyone that enjoys Irving Penn's work or anyone that has a serious collection of photography art books. This is also the perfect book for people that aren't familiar with Penn's work as again, this is without question the best Irving Penn book released to date. The choice of pictures gives you a

perfect look at his overall style of photography, which remained incredibly consistent all throughout his career. There hasn't been another portrait shooter quite like Penn and I honestly question if there ever will be. A must buy if there ever was one for photography related art books. The fact that this is so reasonably priced just makes it that much more of a no brainer. Given the price you see on a lot of photography related art books, this could have easily been roughly double the current price and nobody would have questioned it. Trust me, put this book at the very top of your to buy list as this is one of the best photography related art books released over the last 5-10 years and that will likely still be true 5-10 years down the road. If or when this book happens to go out of print, you can expect to pay a LOT more than the current price! 5 Stars and then some!!

It's the best book on Irving Penn's work to date. Everything is beautifully reproduced. Design of the book great, my only criticism is I would like to have seen more of his fashion work.

This is the best Penn retrospective book ever published.

A great comprehensive collection of photos at a great price

a great and complete book of a master artist. the photographs are beautiful

Wonderful examination of Penn's career.

Excellent piece of scholarship on an iconic photographer.

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