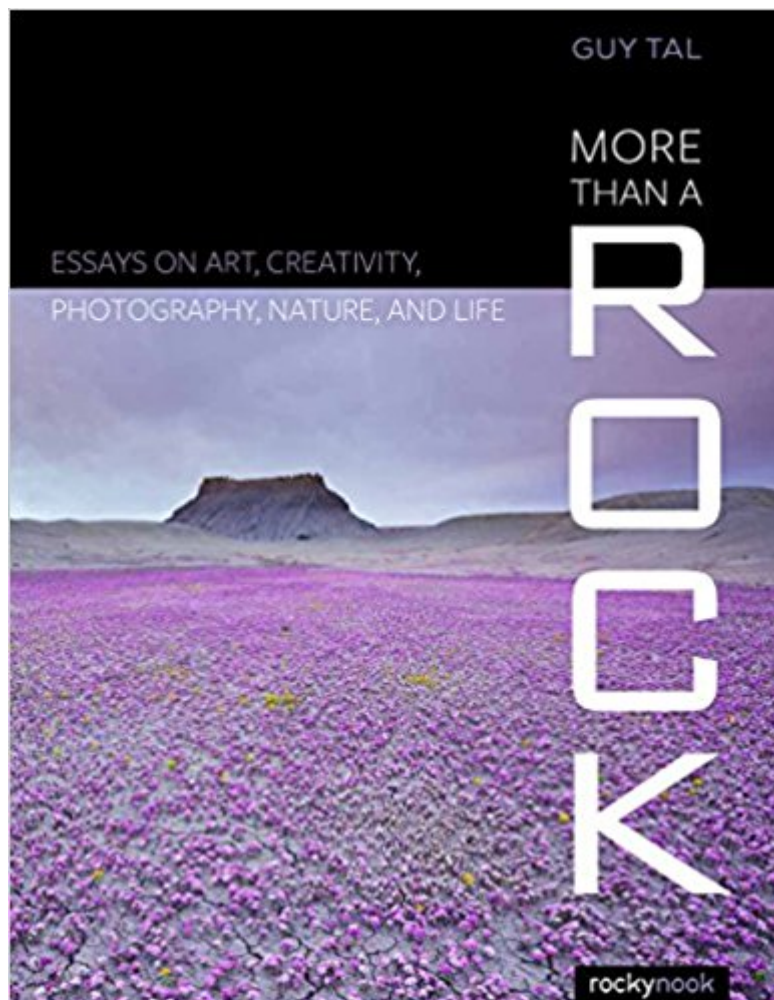




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More Than A Rock: Essays On Art, Creativity, Photography, Nature, And Life



Synopsis

Ostensibly about landscape photography, *More Than a Rock* is a passionate and personal book about creativity and expression. In this series of essays, photographer and teacher Guy Tal shares his thoughts and experiences as an artist who seeks to express more in his images than the mere appearance of the subject portrayed. Tal makes an argument to consider creative landscape photography as expressing something of the photographer's conception through the use of natural aesthetics as a form of visual art that is distinct from the mere representation of beautiful natural scenes. Tal covers topics such as the art of photography, approaches to landscape photography, and the experiences of a working photographic artist. His essays also include reflections on nature and man's place in it, living a meaningful life, and living as an artist in today's world. The book is decidedly non-technical and focuses on philosophy, nature, and visual expression. It was written for those photographers with a passion and interest in creative photography. Anyone who is pursuing their work as art, is in need of inspiration, or is interested in the writings of a full-time working photographic artist will benefit from reading this book. The book is visually punctuated with Tal's inspiring and breathtaking photography. "Some images look like things, while others feel like things; some images are of things, while others are about things. A creative image is not a record of a scene nor a substitute for a real experience. Rather, it is an experience in itself—an aesthetic experience—something new that the artist has given the world, rather than a contrived view of something that already existed independent of them." ~Guy Tal **** Guy Tal's photography is thoughtful, compassionate, and poetic; it's no wonder then that his writings evoke similar feelings in me. If you want to be a better camera user, read your manual. If you want to be a stronger, deeper photographer, read Guy Tal. ~David duChemin

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a professional artist and writer, Guy Tal believes the practice of creative pursuits not only manifests in the making of art, but also has the ability to enrich life, foster meaningful experiences and contentment, and bring healing through life-long discovery and adventure. Tal strives to create images that convey his connection with the wild places of the American West. His images are a result of his complex relationship with these lands that has evolved over many yearsâ through times of bliss and conflict, love and loss, and life changes. In his images, he seeks to convey a reverence and gratitude for how these places have shaped his life. His subjects are not just attractive models to him, they are friends and sanctuaries and characters in his own story. He does not consider himself a photographer who creates art, but rather an artist working in the medium of photography. Tal's work has been featured in various publications, including LensWork Magazine, PHOTOGRAPH, Outdoor Photographer, Popular Photography, Digital Photographer, Landscape Photography Magazine, PhotoLife, and On Landscape, among others. See more of his work and visit his blog at guytal.com.

Guy Tal is a professional nature photographer, and the subject of photography permeates this book. But as it unfolds, Tal reveals himself to be more than a photographer. He is first and foremost an artist, and he has thought long and hard about art, its place in society, and its possible place in the lives of people who practice it. And the place to practice it, for Tal, is in the deserts of the American Southwest, especially on the Colorado Plateau where he lives. There are 69 self-contained, two- to four-page essays in the book, covering everything from the ethics of image-manipulation to the artist's quest for a *vision* or *style* to the author's views of the intersection of art, philosophy, and science. Many consider the works of other famous photographers. Tal admits he is an introvert, and he frequently retreats, alone, for a few days of hiking, camping, and photography in the most remote parts of Southern Utah's canyonlands. His descriptions of these wild and beautiful places, which he never precisely identifies, are as evocative and poetic as anything Edward Abbey wrote. The book is worth the price of admission for the many color photos from Tal's treks. They are quite well reproduced considering this is not a large, glossy coffee-table book. One sees in his images hints of his deep thinking and appreciation of natural

beauty. Many of them seem to me tinged with mystery and melancholy. Don't look here for the iconic places on post cards in the gift shops at our National Parks. And don't look to this book for pragmatic, how-to advice on photography, or for a travel guide to all the best spots to get those trophy photos. This is a deeply thoughtful and beautiful book, but not a simple one. Read it slowly. Think about it. Improve your photography, and maybe your life.

Today I received the book and had not yet had time to study it in depth, but an initial review I find Guy has insight into deep philosophical relation between man and his environment, he has a philosophical type of observation on the environment and the wonders of nature, in other words, he does not just want to know "what" but also to know "why". He has a tolerant attitude and philosophical contemplation and carefully to everything we see. Guy creates a part of nature, he thinks it, he understands it and is taking part in this intelligent manner which reflected perfectly the amazing photos that appear in the pages of the book. wonderful job Guy , I'm proud of you, Good luck on your way.

Wonderful thought provoking look at art. Written in short essays around a basic question. While he talks art from a photographer, it addresses the why we take photos.

Guy Tal's reflections on art and leading a creative, meaningful life resonated with me on a profound level. It seemed as if many of the essays were directed toward me personally, such were the commonalities in experiences and feelings. To say that it will have a transformative effect on my art and how I approach it would not be an overstatement.

Great book for photographers, and other artists, interested in finding their true reasons for creating photographic art. Essay format is nice for reading small sections at a time that address specific issues that most of us face.

Guy and I were both inspired by Minor White and share a similar sensibility. His internal thoughts expressed so eloquently in these essays extend and amplify my primitive musings. Read this book to bolster your courage to be creative, to better understand why you create.

Guy Tal has written what I needed to hear at this time in my photography life. Each essay is full of wisdom to help move you toward creativity. I will read these essays again and again. Highly

recommended!

Ruminations and meditations on art, life and photography. Exposing a photograph is science, making a photograph to communicate your view of the subject is art. This book is about the art.

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