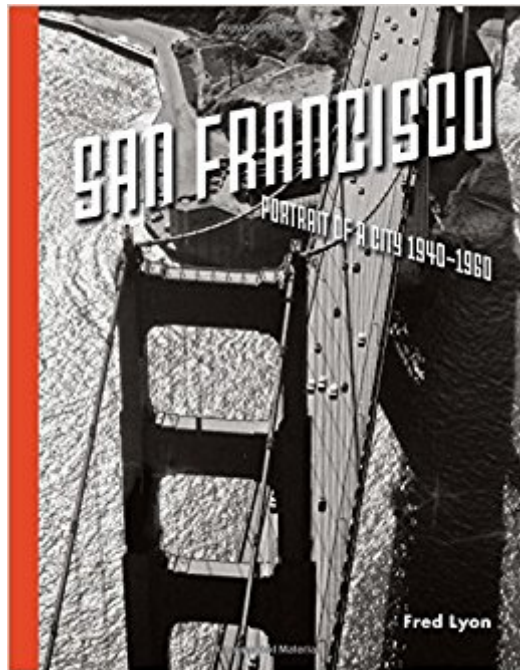




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San Francisco, Portrait Of A City: 1940-1960



Synopsis

With a landmark around every corner and a picture perfect view atop every hill, San Francisco might be the world's most picturesque city. And yet, the Golden City is so much more than postcard vistas. It's a town alive with history, culture, and a palpable sense of grandeur best captured by a man known as San Francisco's Brassai. Walking the city's foggy streets, the fourth-generation San Franciscan captures the local's view in dramatic black-and-white photosâ from fog-drenched mornings in North Beach and cable cars on Market Street to moody night shots of Coit Tower and the twists and turns of Lombard Street. In San Francisco, Portrait of a City 1940â1960, Fred Lyon captures the iconic landscapes and one-of-a-kind personalities that transformed the city by the bay into a legend. Lyon's anecdotes and personal remembrances, including sly portraits of San Francisco characters such as writer Herb Caen, painters Richard Diebenkorn and Jean Varda, and madame and former mayor of Sausalito Sally Stanford add an artist's first-hand view to this portrait of a classic American city.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"At 90, Fred Lyon is a legendary San Franciscan photographer. He is now known for capturing the ethereal feel of the city and its people, but in the 1940s and '50s, Lyon was scrabbling to gain a footing in the magazine industry. Luckily, it was a good time to do so: San Francisco was entering a new golden age, consumed by a post-World War II hunger for creative expression. His new book, San Francisco, is a portrait of the city bursting with life, from its streets to its stores to its grandest

palaces of art and culture." -Slate.com"Stunning.. photographer Fred Lyon, now 90, magnificently captured the enticing noir decadence of San Francisco's Barbary Coast and the majesty of the rest of the city." -BoingBoing Holiday Gift Guide"Lyon captures the seaside metropolis decades before the dot-coms invaded and rents skyrocketed, documenting everywhere from Chinatown's fish markets to Telegraph Hill's gorgeous homes to sailboats near Alcatraz to Union Square flower stands. Most compelling of all are his images of the city's residents: fishermen, artists, jazz musicians, ballerinas, clowns outside strip clubs, Lion dancers on the Chinese New Year; kids riding makeshift skateboards in the streets." -FastCompany.com"Barkers and sidewalk vendors, fishermen and longshoremen. These are people one doesn't see much anymore in San Francisco, but they fill the pages of Fred Lyon's vibrant and invaluable new book of photography, San Francisco, Portrait of a City 1940-1960" -SFGate.com

Fred Lyon has been photographing for 7 decades now, fourth generation San Franciscan, and found his calling in his youth as an apprentice at Gabriel Moulin's Studio before enrolling in Art Center in Los Angeles. Lyon has done photographic work for the Navy during WWII and for numerous fashion and home and garden magazines. Lyon's exhibitions include Palace Legion of Honor, Arts Institute in Chicago, and a LIFE magazine retrospective.

This is an incredible book of photos, and the back stories are really interesting, too. Beautifully printed and hardbound, it is a must-have for anyone interested in photography, especially for anyone who is totally in love with the City! For those of us who consider San Francisco to be our Mistress, one book of photos is never enough. In fact, a whole entire library of a collection of books about the Bay area is never going to be enough! But whether you're new to the City, or a long-time resident, or a traveler who loves to spend endless hours discovering San Francisco's history, its magnificence and charm, Fred Lyon's book covering periods between 1940 and 1960 is a great place to start. There's plenty more where that came from!.

If you know a native San Franciscan born around this era, buy them this book! The Italian side of my family moved to SF in the 1890's and my father was born in 44'. We went through this book together and it was an enlightening, educational and nostalgic moment. I saw tears in his eyes a few times. I miss our fair city and am sad it's no longer accessible to the people who made it what it is.

Perfect for natives who miss their city. Lovely photos from a time when the city was less crowded and more small-town than it is now. Buy this along with a compendium of Herb Caen columns; pour yourself an Anchor Steam and shed a tear in it because you can't afford to live there anymore.

Yesterday I received the copy of Fred Lyon's "San Francisco: Portrait of a City, 1940 - 1960, that I had ordered from . To be honest, I couldn't put it down until I had been through it twice. This is a fantastic book and well worth the space on any San Francisco bookshelf. Get a copy!

Brought this pictorial book for my wife for Christmas. She was born and raised in SF during the time period of the photos. She had a wonderful time viewing each photo and sharing childhood stories and memories. A great buy for any native San Franciscan.

Beautiful photos, great quality book

Beautiful photography of San Francisco during a golden period. The book is hard cover with high-quality paper bringing added richness to the stunning black & white images. I love the book on two levels, one as a historical document and the other for its sheer art.

Absolutely Beautiful Photos! Makes such a good coffee table book, but I'm going to figure out a way to get them on my wall.

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