



**LEROY GRANNIS SURF PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE 1960'S AND 1970'S EDITED BY JIM HEIMANN (TASCHEN-\$59.95) 276 PAGES**

Catch a wave dude, and head on out post haste to pick up a copy of LEROY GRANNIS SURF PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE 1960'S AND 1970'S. Leroy Grannis' classic work takes us back to another era, long before our hobbies became channel surfing rather than surfing on long wooden boards.

When he first looked at surfing in 1959, it was as a hobbyist not a photographer. He was looking for something to reduce the stress of life. He liked what he saw, and later became photographer for INTERNATIONAL SURFING magazine. Shooting photos of people riding killer waves became a pastime, and became an exciting career for Grannis, his hobby spanning several decades.

The book is packed with dozens of shots in black and white, or vibrant Technicolor, of surfers in action, or just people standing on a pier, watching the brave, challenging waves that rise as high as buildings. The shots have a serenity and brilliance to them, capturing people at the height of their surfing, concentrating on staying on their boards, as they try and outrace the huge swirls of water.

There are many photos of people who made surfing more than a hobby. It was their life's work, some of them competitors, doing this as a full-time profession. There are shots from all across the West coast whether Pacific Beach San Diego, Tempe Arizona, the sunny shores of Hawaii, Malibu, Hermosa Beach, or Rincon California.

The surfers are doing the classic "Pipeline," or other popular surf manoeuvres that seem to defy gravity and logic. Leroy Grannis' book does not focus solely on the beach. There are candid shots of people in a surfboard factory at work, creating the latest designs. Spectators strolling the beach, men watching women, women watching men, people preparing to Hang Ten, and a host of other moments caught on film are what makes the book so unique.

The colors in the shots are so pristine looking, the azure blue of the sky and the water, like a postcard brought to life. Few other photographers of this or any other era were able to duplicate and bring to life what Leroy Grannis was able to. Call the book the ultimate homage to surfing, showing us what once was, captured through the lens of a man with a passion for getting the best shots possible, and definitely leaving behind a classic collection of the best surf shots imaginable.

**RATING: 4 ½ BOOKMARKS**