

## Civilization

### *The Way We Live Now*

William A. Ewing and Holly Rousell

Publication: 16 October 2018

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*Our fast-changing world seen through the lenses of 140 leading contemporary photographers around the globe*

We hurtle together into the future at ever-increasing speed – or so it seems to the collective psyche. Perpetually evolving, morphing, building and demolishing, rethinking, reframing and reshaping the world around and ahead – and the people within it – an emerging, planetary-wide Civilization is our grand, global, collective endeavour. Never before in human history have so many people been so interconnected, and so interdependent.

With close to 500 images, many previously unpublished, this landmark publication takes stock of the material and spiritual cultures that make up ‘civilization’. Ranging from the ordinary to the extraordinary, from our great collective achievements to our ruinous collective failings, *Civilization: The Way We Live Now* explores the complexity of contemporary civilization through the rich, nuanced language of photography.

Featuring images by some 140 photographers – from Reiner Riedler’s families at leisure parks, Raimond Wouda’s high schools, Wang Qingsong’s *Work, Work, Work* and Cindy Sherman’s *Society Portraits*, to Lauren Greenfield’s displays of ostentatious wealth, Edward Burtynsky’s oil fields, Pablo Lopez Luz’s views on a sprawling contemporary megapolis, Thomas Struth’s images of high technology, Xing Danwen’s electronic wastelands and Taryn Simon’s *Contraband*, *Civilization* draws together the threads of humankind’s ever-changing, frenetic, collective life across the globe.

Visually epic, *Civilization* is presented through eight thematic chapters, each featuring powerful imagery and accompanied by provocative essays, quotes, and concise statements by the artists themselves.

This ambitious publication is accompanied by an internationally touring exhibition produced by the Foundation for the Exhibition of Photography – a global cultural event for a global subject.

**William A. Ewing** has been an author, lecturer, curator of photography and museum director for more than forty years. His many publications on photography include *The Body* (1994), *Landmark* (2014) and *Edward Burtynsky: Essential Elements* (2016), all published by Thames & Hudson.

**Holly Rousell** is a curator and art historian specializing in photography and contemporary art from Asia.

**Exhibition:** To coincide with the launch of the book will be a selection of photographs at Flowers Gallery, London E2. The exhibition ‘Civilization’ is on view from 7 November – 22 December. [www.flowersgallery.com](http://www.flowersgallery.com)



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