Diane Arbus Revelations by Diane Arbus

Muscle men, midgets, socialites, circus performers and asylum inmates: in the 1950s and 60s, photographer Diane Arbus (1923-1971) cast her strong eye on them all, capturing them as no one else could. Her documentary-style photos of society's margin-walkers were objective and reverential, while she often portrayed so-called normal people looking far more freakish than the freaks. Her powerful work was well-received in its day. Arbus received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1963 and 1966 and was included in a major show at MOMA in 1967. But her work entered the realm of near-myth after her 1971 suicide.

Posthumously cast as everything from patron saint of the underdog to a crass exploiter of the mentally challenged, Arbus has curiously never had a large retrospective until the show Revelations was organized by Arbus family and SF MOMA. The accompanying catalogue is an oversized, sumptuous, beautifully printed tome. It includes all of the artists iconic photographs as well as many that have never been publicly exhibited,
including many pages of contact sheets, journal entries, and family snapshots. This work is so strong, its mind-blowing. The giant in his apartment with his parents looks absolutely regal, his parents sad and confused. Are those crazy people always so happy? And what to make of this moment of extreme tenderness between a dominatrix and her client? This is a book worth hours of your time. --Mike McGonigal

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Personal Review: Diane Arbus Revelations by Diane Arbus
I purchased this item for a fan of Diane Arbus' photography (who also happens to be a photographer) for a Christmas gift. He was very pleased with the content, the fact that it had photos he was not previously familiar with, as well as it's inclusion of some of the chemical recipes/chemistry she used to develop her prints. He said that it contained encyclopaedic knowledge regarding Diane Arbus and her works that are both known (famous) and unknown (lesser known works) and felt it was well worth the price (being a gift, he doesn't know what it cost me, but it is definitely a good deal). It had copies of several personal letters and many other interesting items. It is a reasonably sized book, nice hardcover binding, arriving in great new condition in a timely manner. Seller was Amazon.com. Diane Arbus Revelations

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