In the Blink of an Eye: The World as You've Never Seen It by John Brackenbury

Appeals to photography and nature loves alike with truly unusual and original images. Author John Brackenbury has recently won the `Visions of Science and `Art of Science photographic awards. This remarkable collection of photographs reveals aspects of the world around us, that are either too small to notice or so quick as to be invisible to the human eye. Cambridge University scientist and photographer John Brackenbury has developed special photographic equipment and techniques that have allowed him to take these remarkable pictures and reveal hitherto ignored or invisible aspects of the natural world. Featuring 100 extraordinary images that will astound and amaze: the vortex created the flap of a butterfly's wing, a frog diving into water, the view of the world through a raindrop and many other amazing captured moments. With high-quality, full-page reproductions and captions explaining each picture and how it was obtained, Blink of an Eye will captivate the imagination from the outset.

My Personal Review:
We've been treated to incredible photographs that freeze quick-footed nature since 1931 when Doc Edgerton invented the strobe light. Now, digital photography is here and John Brackenbury has used it to snap photographs of natural and man-made items that are nearly unparalleled for their weird fascination and sheer artistry. Brackenbury drop coins into water and drags lightbulbs through the liquid; he pop water-filled balloons and drops water on beetles -- anything to show the strange way that the most common fluid on the planet reacts when struck, pierced or disturbed. Brackebury uses colored water and colored gradient backgrounds to make each photograph into a work of art in its own right. The effects he captures are extraordinary -- the twin vortices that follow the wake of an object dragged through water; the surprising elasticity of the surface of water when breached by a coin (or even a frog!); the rugged "landscapes" created when the surface of water is dimpled by a geyser of water from below. Bracenbury accompanies each set of photographs with short lay-accessible descriptions of the forces on display by his photos. You'll learn of drag, turbulence, hydrostatic pressure and surface tension. More
importantly,. You'll see these concepts at work. You'll also begin to wonder at how small insignificant effects (the spray of powder blown from a fingernail) can be reminiscent of much larger ones (the spray of stars in a galaxy), suggesting a connection at some level between the physical forces that undergird the Universe. But the science is layered on lightly, and can be ignored altogether if that is the reader's wish.

"In the Blink," is fun whether you are into science, appreciate photography or just like to play in water. A beautiful book that is very easy on the eyes.

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