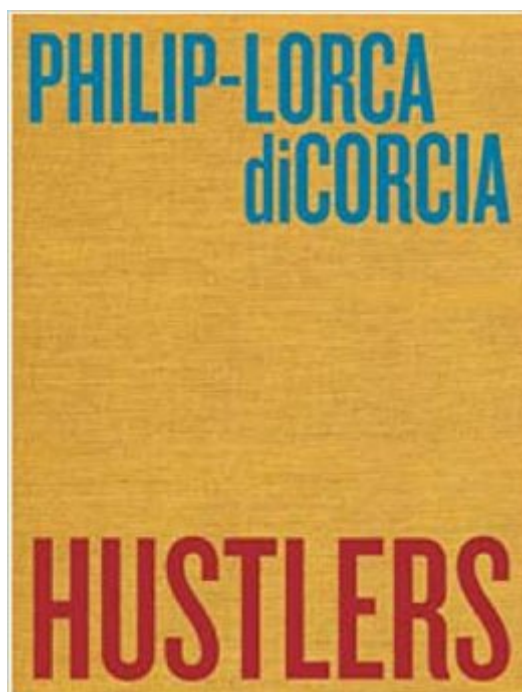


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Philip-Lorca DiCorcia: Hustlers



Synopsis

Between 1990 and 1992, Philip-Lorca diCorcia, funded by a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, made multiple trips to Los Angeles to scout locations, invent scenarios and to find male prostitutes that would agree to pose for his camera. The last task proved to be the easiest: diCorcia simply used his fellowship money to pay the men whatever price they charged for their most typical service and ultimately prompted a complaint of misuse of government funds. In 1993, 21 selected images were initially exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art, marking Philip-Lorca diCorcia's first solo exhibition. The show, entitled Strangers was accompanied by a museum catalog. Twenty years later, Steidl publishes the series in its entirety. Hustlers is an empathetic yet melancholic poem of the Hollywood dream gone wrong, prescribing to the heavily-staged pictorialism and happenstance of street casting for which diCorcia is most widely recognized. Knowing precisely what he wanted from each photograph, and fearful of police involvement, diCorcia would prearrange all settings: this motel room, that vacant lot, in between cars, in a fast-food restaurant--the narrative was always deliberate. From the moment diCorcia approached a potential subject (usually around Santa Monica Boulevard in Hollywood), to the completion of the shoot, seldom more than one hour had passed. The titles of these encounters amplify the facts--for example: "Ralph Smith, 21 years old, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and \$25."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I hesitated for about 2 months from purchasing this book. I just don't know why. This like many

photo books that continue with no writing through out the book makes me feel weird and question some of the men in the photos. Yet i use my imagination. And I guess that what makes me personally like this book. I just wonder what and how they ended up like they did. The quality of the book is beautiful. This will for sure be a classic in years to come.

This early work, from 25 years ago, is definitely Philip-Lorca diCorcia's best work. This new XL edition, very well designed and conceived, presents Mr diCorcia's radical blend of 'street' and 'staged' photography, with the extra edge of casting real life hustlers from seedier side of urban life, as models for his images, and listing the price paid for them to pose. Many of the photographs are great, and when it was made 25 years ago, it heralded him as a photographer of serious note, and a future leading light. He is to a large degree, but sadly Mr diCorcia got too deeply into the whole W magazine world of fashion shoots, assignments, models and big budgets to make such great work again. His book 'Heads' comes closest, but is not all it could be in the end (to this viewer at least, you may disagree). Since then its been what look like out-takes or behind the scenes Polaroids of his shoots, and greatest hits from his archive ('Storybook Life'). A smart and great photographer who got sidetracked by the fashion world's forces, and the need to earn a living. Fashion may need Art, but Art does not need Fashion. I hope he finds himself again.

This is a beautifully produced book, I just wish the pictures were a little larger for the size of the book.

Beautiful book.

Amazing

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