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In Training, A Book Of Bonsai Photos



Synopsis

In Training is a book of bonsai photos, a fresh look at an ancient art form. Two years ago, I began making the photos of each tree as a sort of respite, an excuse to be near something beautiful and to appraise it fully, without the usual time constraints I had grown accustomed to in my professional work. The bonsai, themselves, seemed the very opposite of the subjects I usually photographed they stood before me fully present, their sense of time measured in decades, even centuries. From my first glimpse of the trees all those years ago, I knew implicitly that there was something to be learned from them, from their endurance and quiet dignity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book, In Training, by photographer Stephen Voss, has a burlap cover which has been imprinted with one of the photos from the inside. It also has the title and the author's name in gold. It is a heavy book, with some of the glossy pages in different colors, to accent the photos on them. I took a photo of one of the photos so that you could see the layout of the double page spread. On the far left is the explanation of the picture next to it, which is in fact, a tree in training. The next photo I posted is the bio at the end of the book, and finally the photo the author chose to end the book, after his bio. I cannot believe that anyone would not be hit right in the gut by this perfectly beautiful book. It speaks to me of things I cannot totally understand, but I don't mind that. People can be in training, just like trees. This would mean that In Training would make a wonderful gift for any person preparing for grad school, or setting up that first office. It would be a good gift for a new

mother or father who will soon be having a child to raise. Obviously, it would be a great gift for your favorite gardener! There is a lot of space between the photos. Sometimes a whole page is white. I am totally for that, as it gives the viewer time to process what she has seen. The images are very powerful, to me. I think Voss is an outstanding photographer and that this book is extremely uplifting. Read the afterword by Michael Hagedorn if you don't understand bonsai. Here is the opening of it: "The impermanence of the natural world. The immense seen in the infinitesimal. The feelings of durability, humility, and hope. Many have used these words to describe bonsai and they feel right and true"....

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