

LEE MILLER

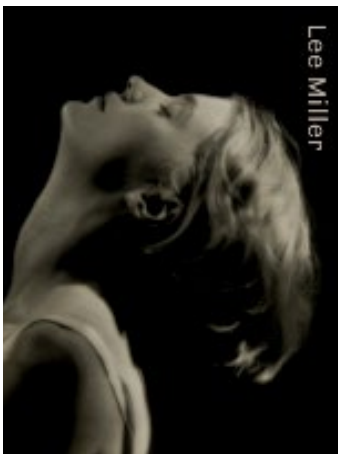
▣ **Hatje Cantz**
 ▣ **Softback, £26.99**

There have been a lot of books in recent years on Lee Miller and her work and you do begin to feel that there is little more to say, but this one does do a good job. Covering a huge spectrum of her photographic life, the book explores through text and pictures how this woman photographed high fashion one minute and devastating war scenes the next.

There is no doubt about it, she was extraordinary and well deserving of our attention, having for many years disappeared from view. The revival of interest in her work has revealed her skill both as a photographer and a journalist, able to adapt from one subject matter to the next seamlessly. She was, however, not neutral in her approach and was capable of using a wry humour in the worst of situations (the famous picture of her bathing in Hitler's bath).

Certainly a photographer who was unique to her time.

Elizabeth Roberts

TOUGH & TENDER:
ENGLISH SEASCAPES

Sheila Rock

▣ **Kehrer Verlag**
 ▣ **Hardback, £28**

First off, I'll say two things about this book: it is very very heavy and it smells wonderful. But, having explored the physical aspects of it, at the heart of the book is one of the 20th century's landmark inventions, the Leica camera.

With around 560 pages and 1,200 images this is a magnificent chronicle of the history of the Leica camera and the history of photography from the early 20th century to the present day, with subject matter ranging from hard-hitting reportage to high fashion. All the greats are featured, from Henri Cartier-Bresson to William Klein and William Eggleston to Bruce Gilden. And while there is some colour, the images are largely black & white.

Whether you are a Leica user or not, this is a book to be cherished (as long as you have the strength to carry it home from the bookshop).

When the image on the front cover of *Tough & Tender* was runner-up in the *This is Life* category in the Black+White Photographer of the Year 2013, I fell in love with it and later bought a print from Sheila. I still find the image intriguing – and find the rest of the body of work equally so.

It is interesting that while Sheila was not born and bred in the UK she has an affinity with our shoreline and the people who inhabit it. Never cruel, always tender, her portraits describe a drama in which her actors face the chilly windswept summers of England with resilience. They flock to the seaside with a determination to participate in the traditional entertainments it provides. Shivering, draped in a towel, burned by a rare burst of sun, or huddled in an embrace in a shelter, they offer themselves to her camera with trust. Evocative, truthful and lovely.

Elizabeth Roberts

EYES WIDE OPEN!:
100 YEARS
OF LEICA
PHOTOGRAPHY

Hans-Michael Koetzle

▣ **Kehrer Verlag**
 ▣ **Hardback, £50.70**

Whether you are a Leica user or not, this is a book to be cherished (as long as you have the strength to carry it home from the bookshop).

Elizabeth Roberts

PHOTO LONDON
2015

▣ **teNeues**
 ▣ **Paperback, £25**

In May this year Somerset House saw the launch of Photo London. With talks and exhibitions, and around 70 galleries showing work, plus photobook publishers, the event was a milestone in photography in the UK – and, hopefully, one that will be an annual draw for the huge crowds that attended this year.

This book gives a substantial taste of what was on show, with each of the galleries illustrated with a single photograph. What you discover is the overview rather than the detail but as such, it's a great way to get the flavour of the event if you didn't attend. Perhaps more interestingly, it does offer a bigger picture of the place of photography in the modern era through both contemporary and vintage work.

It will, hopefully, also provide the incentive not to miss the fair next spring.

Elizabeth Roberts

'It's a great way to get the flavour of the event if you didn't attend.'

