

Urbex

BEAUTY IN DECAY



Compiled by RomanyWG

Beauty in Decay. Urbex and The Art of Urban Exploration published by CarpetBombingCulture in July 2010 explores the global phenomenon of Urban Exploration.

Haunting imagery and creative prose combine to spectacular effect to blur the line between reality and science fiction.

Keep Out. Verboten. No Trespassing.

Just who decides which doors are closed in our world and whose interests do they serve? Do we wish to be kept permanently safe, free from either harm or adventure? How can we ever learn to ride with the stabilisers on?

There is a deep attraction to be found in opening these doors. They open a rift in our experience and throw new light onto the boundaries we have accepted.

There is only one way to find out what's behind these doors.

Step inside The Beauty of Decay.

RomanyWG takes us to the heart the urban exploration scene and shows us the stunning imagery that occurs when beauty meets decay. From overgrown industrial complexes and disused lunatic asylums, abandoned palaces and forgotten monasteries Beauty in Decay goes where many fear to tread.

Walk in the eerie footsteps of long departed souls through haunted houses turned to dust and industrial complexes surrendered to nature. Take a glimpse inside the UK's abandoned asylums and Belgium's ghostly chateaux. Visit the ghosts of Chernobyl and step inside the relinquished German big top where circus animals lie in a macabre sleep waiting for resurrection.

Through delapidated tunnels, spectral crypts and bizarre futuristic settlements see through the eyes of the Urbex Explorer the chilling sight of nature taking back it's own.

About the Author

RomanyWG is a Film Editor by day and a documentarian of Street Art/Graffiti and Urban Exploration by night.

260 x 260mm

192 pages

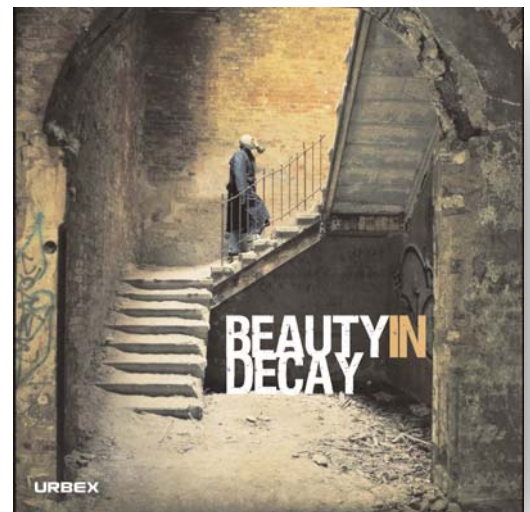
Full Colour

Hardback

ISBN - 978-0955912146

£24.95

July 2010



For further information, images and a review copy please contact:

books@carpetbombingculture.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1325 488910

Pro-Actif Communications
29 High Northgate
Darlington, Co Durham DL1 1UQ

www.carpetbombingculture.co.uk



Urbex

pro-actif

BEAUTY IN DECAY

What's the Story with Urban Exploration?

It's easy to describe what an Urban Explorer does; they infiltrate into abandoned buildings and industrial sites and explore them, often taking photographs along the way. They don't steal, vandalise or even leave graffiti behind them. In fact their code of honour is reminiscent of the rambler's way: Take only pictures, leave only footprints. It is, on the other hand, not so easy to describe the whys and wherefores. It's likely that this activity has existed in one form or another for as long as we have been building things but recently 'Urbex' as it is known, is becoming a more unified scene due to the activities of online 'Urbex' communities. Strange then that an activity that is certainly not social in a conventional sense (explorers often work alone or in pairs) is becoming a society of sorts.

With tools consisting of a digital SLR camera and High Dynamic Range software it has become very much easier to take awesome photographs in the challenging environments that the Urban Explorer shoots. As a result the online scene has been flooded with beautiful imagery as Explorers trade shots, stories and advice through message and Forums. However, Urban Explorers are not only photographers. The photography appears to be the symptom and not the disease.

Why then do these individuals choose, on a day off work, not to have a stroll round the shops and take in a movie but rather to break the law and jeopardise their own safety purely to spelunk around filthy environments with no promise of material reward? The lure is obviously very strong and to understand the siren song of these places requires a certainly more poetic mindset than one might be used to occupying.

Think back to your childhood for a moment and it all begins to make sense. Do you remember the terrifying yet seductive draw of the archetypal haunted house? Every neighbourhood and every childhood has one. At the very point we cross the border from childhood into adolescence we cross real physical borders too. It's the moment in our lives when we test the boundaries. We finally pluck up the courage to break into the haunted house and take a look around. You can probably remember your own experiences of this. And there will be at least one.

The Urban Explorer feels that we, in the comfortable and over-protected 'first world' are living in an enforced and extended state of childhood. They have remembered that they are capable of having unmediated experiences of reality and they welcome the fear that may (or may not) come with those experiences. The fear itself is the gateway to go through. It's the gateway that leads for many to 'wonderland'. This is the world through the looking glass that in some dark corner of every soul, we are all looking for.

The strange thing then is not that Urban Explorers exist; it's that the rest of us have forgotten that we are Urban Explorers too.

260 x 260mm

192 pages

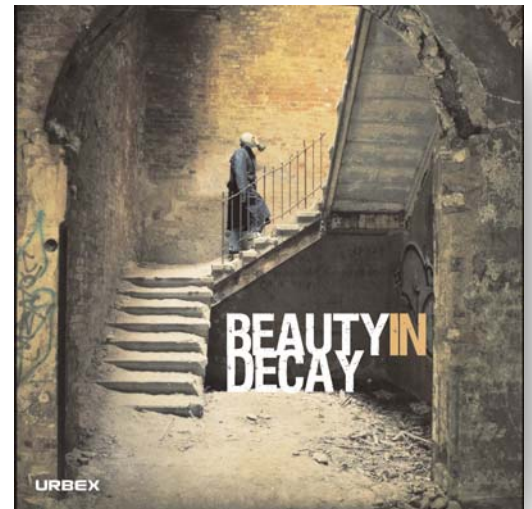
Full Colour

Hardback

ISBN - 978-0955912146

£24.95

May 2010



For further information, images and a review copy please contact:

books@carpetbombingculture.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1325 488910

Pro-Actif Communications
29 High Northgate
Darlington, Co Durham DL1 1UQ

www.carpetbombingculture.co.uk