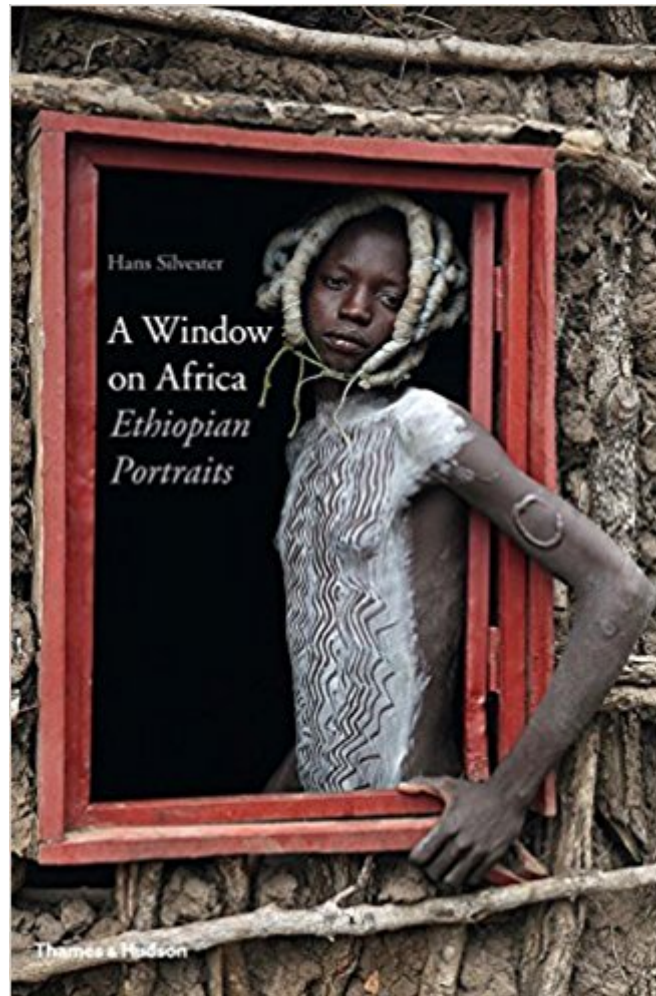




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A Window On Africa: Ethiopian Portraits



Synopsis

A companion to Hans Silvester's *Natural Fashion*: a unique portrait of everyday life in a village in the Omo Valley. "My little red window has become almost a mirror image of the startling changes taking place today in Africa, where so many conflicts have arisen from the coming together of different peoples, creating a chaotic jumble of humanity that obliges vastly different cultures and languages to bond together to form some kind of community. My window has captured a moment in time, nothing more, nothing less, and in its endless stream of faces we can see the diversity of humankind, its customs and its religions, in a place that the old world now has to share with the new, with strangers who are here to stay." Hans Silvester The village of Kibish lies in the lower Omo Valley on the borders of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan. Far from any city and with an unforgiving climate, it is nonetheless a place where traditional lifestyles meet the contemporary world. This book is a beguiling portrait of its people, seen through an unusual lens—that of a simple window frame. From painted, marked, and scarified tribesmen to tradesmen with their tools and farmers with their animals, this collection is a priceless record of a unique and increasingly fragile way of life, one threatened by conflict, tourism, and the rapidly encroaching twenty-first century. 134 full-color photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hans Silvester is a member of the Rapho photographic agency. His most recent reports took him to Rajasthan, where he photographed the people of the Thar desert and the incredible bestiary of Shekhawati wall paintings. His books include *Natural Fashion* and *A Window on Africa*. Silvester

lives in France.

fantastic very artistic

Great concept, but not as amazing as his Natural Fashion. Part of the problem lies with the publisher and production values. In my opinion this book seemed to feel that it could hardly contain the images because they were overly enlarged. Should have made the book narrower, keeping it rectangular but with a taller look that would have fit these images better. Prefer smaller image with a bit of white border around it rather than trying to squeeze the whole image onto each page. While an interesting project, it lacked the real feeling of intimacy that Silvester achieved in Natural Fashion, which I think is a great body of work. The quality of Natural Fashions sets the bar pretty high if one starts comparing his past, or future projects.

this book is so contrived it is disgusting!

This is a wonderful photographic essay about a window in a distant and remote village becoming the center of entertainment. The very receptive and trusting villagers stepping up to join in, some in all their refinement, I found distinctly refreshing. Quite entertained by this work, thank you.

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