

**YALE
UNIVERSITY
ART
GALLERY**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

For Immediate Release
July 7, 2021

**YALE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, IN ASSOCIATION WITH
YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, TO RELEASE NEW PAPERBACK EDITION
OF *ART CAN HELP* BY ROBERT ADAMS**

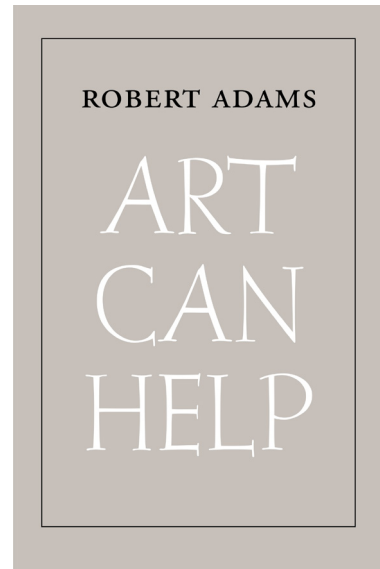
July 7, 2021, New Haven, Conn.—This summer, the Yale University Art Gallery, in association with Yale University Press, will release a paperback edition of the critically acclaimed publication *Art Can Help*, by American photographer Robert Adams (born 1937). Originally published by the Gallery in 2017, *Art Can Help*—chosen by *Photo-Eye* magazine as one of the best photography books of 2017 and the second-place winner in the Books category of the 2018 New England Museum Association Publication Awards—shares over two dozen meditations on the purpose of art and the responsibility of the artist. The first edition, published in hardcover, sold out its entire print run. The new paperback edition, available in summer 2021, puts this prescient book back into print.

In the brief essays in the book, Adams—one of America’s most renowned photographers—makes an argument for what art should mean to our lives. He advocates for art that evokes beauty without irony or sentimentality, art that “encourages us to gratitude and engagement, and is of both personal and civic consequence.”

“This slim yet powerful book was originally produced several years ago as the artist’s response to a world on the verge of environmental catastrophe and in a state of perpetual war,” shares Tiffany Sprague, Director of Publications and Editorial Services at the Gallery. “Today, Adams’s plea for art that asks us to find hope in natural beauty and the kindness and caring of others seems especially timely, and the writings in *Art Can Help* take on a new resonance—a new sense of urgency.”

The book begins with two essays on the works of the American painter Edward Hopper, an artist venerated by Adams. The additional texts in the publication focus on a wide array of important 20th- and 21st-century photographers, including Julia Margaret Cameron, Mitch Epstein, Emmet Gowin, Dorothea Lange, Abelardo Morell, Edward Ranney, Judith Joy Ross, Leo Rubinfien, John Szarkowski, Garry Winogrand, William Wylie, and many more. Several essays also summon the words of literary figures, including Virginia Woolf and Czeslaw Milosz.

Written in an intimate, accessible style, *Art Can Help* was designed and produced to evoke Adams’s seminal publication *Beauty in Photography: Essays in Defense of Traditional Values*, originally published in 1981 and now in its second revised edition (Aperture). In *Art Can Help*, Adams’s deeply personal reflections on beauty in art demonstrate the importance of seeing, making, and living in a way that, in Adams’s words, keeps “curiosity and moral sense alive.”



About Robert Adams

Robert Adams was born in New Jersey in 1937 and moved to Colorado with his family as a teenager. Before taking up photography in the mid-1960s, he was a professor of English literature. In addition to his many photography books, he has written insightful and eloquent essays on the practice and goals of art, which have been collected in the volumes *Beauty in Photography* (1981) and *Why People Photograph* (1994). He has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including those from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (1973, 1980); the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (1994); the Spectrum International Prize for Photography (1995); and the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize (2006). His work has been the subject of major exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2005); the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Conn. (2002); the Philadelphia Museum of Art (1989); and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1979), and was the subject of a major traveling retrospective exhibition, organized by the Yale University Art Gallery, in 2010-12. Adams lives and works in northwestern Oregon.

Also Available from the Yale University Art Gallery and Yale University Press

denver: A Photographic Survey of the Metropolitan Area, 1970-1974

Robert Adams

Hardcover / 136 pages / 9 × 7¹³/₁₆ inches / 117 tritone illustrations / 2009 / Price \$50; Members \$40

Sea Stories

Robert Adams

Paperback with flaps / 24 pages / 8¼ × 9½ inches / 106 tritone illustrations / 2011 /
Price \$45; Members \$36

Skogen

Robert Adams

Hardcover / 100 pages / 9¾ × 11 inches / 46 color illustrations / 2012 / Price \$50; Members \$40

The Place We Live, A Retrospective Selection of Photographs, 1964-2009

Robert Adams

With essays by Jock Reynolds, Joshua Chuang, Tod Papageorge, and John Szarkowski

Multivolume set / 3 volumes: 248 pages (vol. 1); 220 pages (vol. 2); 164 pages (vol. 3) / 9¾ × 11¾ inches /
197 tritone illustrations (vol. 1); 197 tritone illustrations (vol. 2); 281 tritone illustrations (vol. 3) / 2010 /
Price \$250; Members \$200

This Day: Photographs from Twenty-Five Years, The Northwest Coast

Robert Adams

Paperback with flaps / 106 pages / 8¼ × 9½ inches / 68 tritone illustrations / 2011 /
Price \$45; Members \$36

What Can We Believe Where?: Photographs of the American West

Robert Adams

Paperback with flaps / 128 pages / 7 × 9¾ inches / 110 tritone illustrations / 2010 /

Price \$25; Members \$20

What We Bought: The New World, Scenes from the Denver Metropolitan Area, 1970–1974

Robert Adams

Hardcover / 208 pages / 9 × 7¹³/₁₆ inches / 193 tritone illustrations / 2009 / Price \$60; Members \$48

About the Yale University Art Gallery

Founded in 1832, the Yale University Art Gallery is the oldest college art museum in America. Today, it is a center for teaching, learning, and scholarship and a preeminent cultural asset for Yale University, the wider academic community, and the public. The museum collects, preserves, studies, and presents art in all media, from all regions of the globe and across time, with a collection numbering nearly 300,000 objects.

About Yale University Press

Founded in 1908, Yale University Press is one of the largest and most distinguished American university presses. By publishing serious works that contribute to a global understanding of human affairs, Yale University Press aids in the discovery and dissemination of light and truth, lux et veritas, which is a central purpose of Yale University. The publications of the Press are books and other materials that further scholarly investigation, advance interdisciplinary inquiry, stimulate public debate, educate both within and outside the classroom, and enhance cultural life. In its commitment to increasing the range and vigor of intellectual pursuits within the University and elsewhere, Yale University Press continually extends its horizons to embody university publishing at its best.

General Information

The Yale University Art Gallery is located at 1111 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut. The museum is currently open on a limited basis in accordance with the University's COVID-19 protocols: Fridays, 3-7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 12-4 pm. Visitors may reserve free timed tickets on the Gallery's [website](#). A limited number of walk-up tickets are available daily on a first-come-first-serve basis. For general information, please call 203.432.0600 or visit the website at artgallery.yale.edu.

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