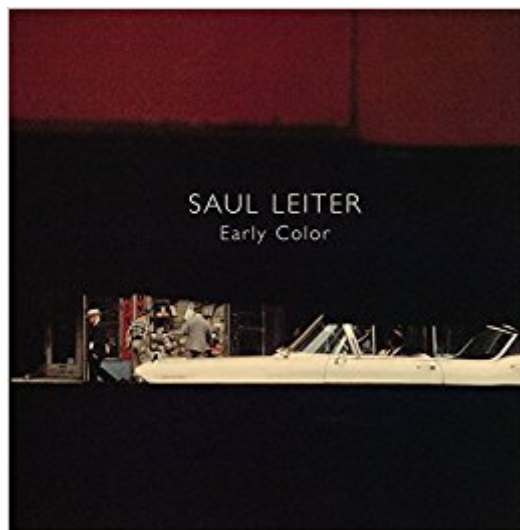


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# Saul Leiter: Early Color



## Synopsis

This is a reprint of the immensely successful *Early Color* (2008), which presented Saul Leiter's remarkable body of color work to the public for the first time in book form. Although Edward Steichen had exhibited some of Leiter's color photography at The Museum of Modern Art in 1953, it remained virtually unknown to the world thereafter. Leiter moved to New York in 1946 to become a painter, but through his friendship with Richard Pousette-Dart he quickly recognized the creative potential of photography. Leiter continued to paint, exhibiting with Philip Guston and Willem de Kooning, but the camera remained his ever-present means of recording life in the metropolis. None of Leiter's contemporaries, with the partial exception of Helen Levitt, assembled a comparable body of work: subtle, often abstract compositions of lyrical, eloquent color.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 158 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Leiter's color photography offers its own version of chance: an attunement to the visual masterpieces that can be found in almost every urban instant. (Michael Greenberg *The New York Review of Books*)

From PDN, The Legends Issue, 2007  
Leiter's place is now assured. He will forever be known as one of the first photographers to use color in a serious, artistic way. Meticulously printed, his pictures use muted colors...that help tamp down the volume and motion of frenetic city streets. His prism tempers the more anxious, acerbic portrayal of city life offered by his peers Robert Frank and

William Klein...Leiter's photographs are as likely to be compared to abstract expressionist painters like Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman or Richard Pousett-Dart.

Saul Leiter's photography reveals an urban world of rich, yet understated colours and abstract shapes. In some photos, he focuses on a reflective surface or the layer of condensation on a window, causing the objects or people behind them to appear fluid, disjointed or overlaid with a mosaic or other pattern. His black and white work explores juxtapositions, shapes and overlaid surfaces. I was apprehensive about buying this slim volume of Leiter's work, having recently purchased a copy of another collection of his photos: 'Early Color'. My concern was that there would be too much overlap. I need not have worried. Although about a third of the works in this collection of 64 photos also appear in 'Early Color', the entire book is superb. Moreover, about 25 of the images are of his black and white photos, with which I was entirely unacquainted. So, what should you do if you are mainly interested in Leiter's colour photography and are hesitating between this and 'Early Color'? If money is no object (and if 'Early Color' is still available, for I do not expect it to remain in print forever), I would recommend choosing 'Early Color'. Although the reproductions in this Photofile book are good, the slightly less bright paper of 'Early Color' better suits Leiter's muted colours. However, if you are budget-conscious or are looking for a selection that includes his monochrome work, this book would be the obvious choice. And if you already own 'Early Color' and are considering another volume of Leiter's wonderful photography, do not hesitate -- this book is a gem.

Had no expectations when ordering this book - but am very pleased I did. This is the ideal small reference book with photos that are challenging in the sense that they clearly 'make their own rules' for that time - creative and visually appealing, Colours are well reproduced and imagine it is a book you would return to often.

This is a classic selection of Saul Leiter's color work. Absolutely wonderful, gorgeous photos. The quality of reproduction and layout is excellent. I am very happy with this book. I was not so happy with the seller "SuperBookDeals" that leads you to believe that the book is in stock, has "shipped" but in reality doesn't get actually shipped until about 3 weeks later. SuperBookDeals is very misleading as you can see if you review its feedback.

Beautiful book

This book is simply wonderful. Saul Leiter is genius, and his work here is unparalleled. Steidl's reproductions are everything we have come to expect from the outstanding publishing house. Leiter's color work is like viewing a surreal painting taking us back to another time period.

A quiet, probing study of a most gifted and fascinating man.

This is a review for the 2014 reprint. This is hands down one of the best photography books I own. Saul Leiter is an amazing photographer and the quality of this book is fantastic. If you are thinking about buying the self-titled book buy this one instead. Steidl always produces excellent products.

Saul Leiter is unquestionably a fantastic photographer, and someone who's work is a constant source of inspiration for my own street photography. This book doesn't really do him justice though. Its incredibly small, which I shouldve noticed by the specs listed, and is really just a teaser for his work. The price is the only real selling point for this book. So I can't complain.

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