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## NOTED

BY AMANDA QUINTENZ-FIEDLER

### **HISTORIA, MEMORIA, SILENCIOS**

**Lorena Guillen Vashetti. Schilt Publishing. 84 pp. \$45 hardcover.**

These haunting slides from the family of Lorena Guillen Vashetti are not images that she took herself, but rather a keenly edited selection of photographs of her forebears. The images are stunning in their representation of anachronistic mundaneness, and the treatment that Vashetti has applied to the slides — a blurry fade on the top and bottom edges that is crisply refined only in the center — adds a kind of nostalgic whimsy. The alteration seems to indicate these images cannot be correctly remembered any more than our own memories are precise representations of what was. Vashetti's brief introduction aligns with this perception, as her own recollection of her childhood doesn't match the happy, dreamy versions represented in the slides. This small book ends with images of unwrapped slides from the family troves, mysteries not yet unveiled. Because of this, the book is more memory than photo album, with some secrets left untapped and others not quite clear at all. It is a lovely little book and excellently put together.

### **TRIA GIOVAN: SAND SEA SKY: THE BEACHES OF SAGAPONACK**

**By Tria Giovan. Damiani. 88 pp. \$40 hardcover.**

It may seem a bit limited to focus an entire book of images on the interaction of the sky falling into the ocean which then caresses the sand, and even more limited to do this in only one area of the world — but, thank goodness, nobody told that to Tria Giovan. In her images of the Sagaponack beaches, Giovan has achieved something remarkable. She has relayed a set of images that actually induce the same calm, restorative effect that the deserted

seashore provides on misty mornings. These images represent something elemental and powerful — not just the water, or the constant metamorphosis of sand and beach, but something more spiritual. Flipping from one page to the next is akin to watching waves roll in, seasons pass and years drift by, all with quiet introspection. The images weather storms and calm alike with no tangible difference in perception. Though decades of experience have taken her around the world, Giovan returns to the home of her childhood in these images and reaffirms a simple, instinctual connection to water. This is not a complex book, but rather calming and intriguing.

### **EARTH MEETS SPIRIT: A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH THE SACRED LANDSCAPE**

**By Douglas Beasley. 5 Continents Editions. 112 pp. \$34.95 hardcover.**

The photographs of Douglas Beasley attempt the improbable — to capture, to visually render, the intangible spirit. His images describe spiritual places, not as point-for-point renditions but rather as ethereal commentary. The images themselves are lovely, often presented in a way that shows the rough edges of the plates and negatives — as though it's the interaction of light with emulsion and emulsion with print that renders the connection between places and something intangible that surrounds and flows through them. We can see the places through Beasley's vision and the edges of the medium through the prints; somehow, that framing allows us to move more fluidly between our own consciousness and the representation of

something else. The body of work is commendable, and even those images that are represented with a more traditional solid edge have a deep spirituality to them. At the end of the day, this book provides a delicate view of Beasley's world and a mirror that can perhaps help us search our own spirituality. ▲

