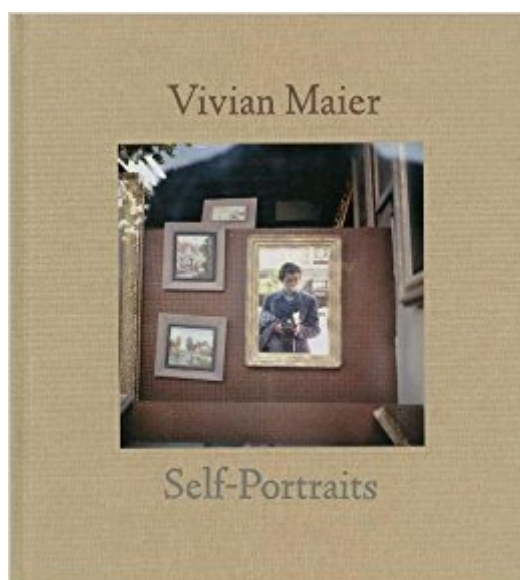


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# Vivian Maier: Self-Portraits



## Synopsis

Celebrated by The Wall Street Journal, Vanity Fair, The New York Times, American Photo, Town and Country, and countless other publications, the life's work of recently discovered street photographer Vivian Maier has captivated the world and spawned comparisons to photography's masters including Diane Arbus, Helen Levitt, Lisette Model, Walker Evans, and Weegee among others. Now, for the first time, *Vivian Maier: Self-Portraits* reveals the fullest and most intimate portrait of the artist to date with approximately 60 never-before-seen black-and-white and four-color self-portraits culled from the extensive Maloof archive, the preeminent collector of the work of Vivian Maier and editor of the highly acclaimed *Vivian Maier: Street Photographer* (powerHouse Books, 2011) "bringing us closer to the reclusive artist than ever before.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

John Maloof's documentary, *Finding Vivian Maier*, was nominated for a 2015 Academy Award! "...her photographs are so powerful and their 1950s and 1960s scenes"-Newsweek "her selfies make her not the center of attention but a haunting presence registered only in glints and shadows."-Wall Street Journal "Vivian Maier's self-portraits are mesmerizing."-CNN, Amanpour "'Self-Portraits' meets the mystery head on, collecting the many pictures Maier took of herself. They are a mix of the spontaneous and the studied, as the photographer aimed her camera at mirrors and shop windows, capturing her reflection with careful detail and composition. They are among her most accomplished pictures and may be the most revealing artifacts she left behind."-LA Times "A

new photo book offers few clues about the woman behind the camera."-Mother Jones"Her work alternately brings to mind Lisette Model, Leon Levinstein, Harry Callahan, Garry Winogrand, Weegee, Helen Levitt and Robert Frank. But the uncracked nut at the core of her mystery is this: Why didn't Vivian Maier show anyone her pictures?"-Wall Street Journal"Saved from obscurity, the work of an unknown street photographer is, at last, coming out of the shadows."-Anthony Mason, CBS News"An unassuming Chicago baby sitter named Vivian Maier was one of the pioneers of street photography.Â But for 60 years, nobody knew it."-The New York Times Style Magazineâ œAn undiscovered artist whose photography is now being compared to the giants, a reclusive woman who, in death, is attracting the kind of attention and acclaim she would have shunned in life.â • -The Huffington Post "Show-cased in the new book Vivian Maier: Street Photographer, out this month from powerHouse-rivet the viewer with the extreme vulnerability of her subjects."-Vanity Fair"[Maier] is a gifted visual thinker with a strong sense of self. Through [her] lens, self-shadows and window reflections are deftly composed more about context than the figure at the center"-American Photo"A combination of straight forward portraits, mirrored reflections and abstract self-portrayals, the collection...attempts to put a face to the name that's most recently captured the photography world's attention" -The Huffington Post"For many people, the discovery of her work has been one of the great unearthings of our age."-The New Yorker

There is still very little known about the life of Vivian Maier. What is known is that she was born in New York in 1926 and worked as a nanny for a family on Chicago's North Shore during the 50s and 60s. Seemingly without a family of her own, the children she cared for eventually acted as caregivers for Maier herself in the autumn of her life. She took hundreds of thousands of photographs in her lifetime, but never shared them with anyone. Maier lost possession of her art when her storage locker was sold off for non-payment. She passed away in 2009 at the age of 83. John Maloof is a filmmaker and street photographer. He discovered the first negatives of Vivian Maier's work in 2007 while compiling a book about the history of the neighborhood where he grew up. He edited the first published collection of Maier's work, Vivian Maier: Street Photographer (powerHouse Books, 2011).Elizabeth Avedon is an independent curator and writer. The former Director of Photo-Eye Gallery, Santa Fe and Creative Director for The Gere Foundation, she has received awards and recognition for her exhibition design and publishing projects, including the retrospective exhibition and book: Avedon: 1949â "1979 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts; and Richard Avedon: In the American West for the Amon Carter Museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and The Art Institute of Chicago, among many others. Elizabeth is a regular

contributor to *Le Journal de la Photographie* profiling notable leaders in the world of Photography.

**Vivian Maier: Self-Portraits** This sublime book is a tour de force. The color and black-and-white photographs, most of which haven't been seen before, are wonderful. No surprise there. It is an even greater pleasure to view them because the book is so beautifully printed and designed!!

Elizabeth Avedon's essay is superb; I was thinking of quoting some of it for this review but decided it deserves to be read in its entirety. Look out for the color photograph she took while having her hair cut (styled?) in a beauty salon.

This is my favorite book of Vivian Maier photos. Given Vivian's story seeing her use herself in so many self portraits has so much more meaning. And when you see the many different ways she incorporates herself into the environment to come up with all the different varieties of self portraits it's pretty amazing. I also like that there are a mixture of color and black and white photographs. The book itself is a quality hardcover with sharp, clear reproductions. If there's one complaint it's that the book designer used way too much white space around all of the photos. They should have been much bigger on the page since there is so much detail in some of the photos. Recommended.

A beautiful book of wonderful images. These are very interesting photographs by a very talented photographer. It's a shame that Ms Maier didn't achieve recognition during her lifetime. This is the nicest book to date on Vivian Maier.

This book is filled with discovered photos taken by a gifted photographer who actually was a Nanny. It is interesting, that she was a nanny, but her gift for photography was more recently revealed since she died and is gaining much attention for being so creative. Her self portraits are fascinating.

Catching images in mirrors has always been done by People from past eras that didn't have easy methods for self image photography. It is meaningful, but interactive. Now, selfies are easily done, but I remember how difficult it used to be. Catching a self portrait in water is easy for someone who lives near the beach, lakes, fountains and rain. It is a unique experience to catch your face in a rain drop and creates unique photo shots. I liked the way she found water in the city, used windows, gazing balls and mirrors in an antique shops even through store windows. It reminded me of *Alice Through the Looking Glass* somehow! The cat one that she did actually reminded of when i was in Apalachicola, Florida. I took a picture of a cat in the window of a bookshop and the window added all backdrop reflections in the picture because of the sun shining at a certain angles. All the cares

and people overlapped the cat. It looked like an Art collage of people, cars and cats. I love that picture. by mistake and I adored that! Shadow pictures intrigue me, but We take them at the beach. She lived in big cities as a nanny and really went and caught many culturally interesting pictures. As a nanny, it intrigues me that she could take so many. Catching reflections in tide pools on the beach or funny shadows on the beach has always been fascinating and fun to me. I was impressed with the impromptu photos she caught with shadows mostly and some reflections . They are interesting. People interest me. Her pictures of children sometimes were haunting and sad in many pictures that I have collected on line? She is also great at catching people in funny situations. I'm interested in did she like being a Nanny. I am ready to really read the newest book and find out more about her. Her shadow pictures are so humorous . The "eye opener" on June 26 made me laugh. Her self photos were very good. Her shadow pictures are more playful than most of her self portraits. I adored her self picture through a shoe store. Some of the car rim pictures were classic. I adored her multiple self images. Also, I had to really think when I looked at the window, with her standing taking her reflection on page 31. She's appears a giant due to shadow play and the people look like they are on a flag. She has a playful and a serious side on self images, an uncanny gift for catching people in natural poses. She has an amazingly fun method of shadow play photography. She does intriguing self portraits in mirrors, windows and water. I truly loved the humorous smile on February 1955, NY pg. 71 as she gets the man with the glass mirror to assist her. She must have been an interesting person. I love this big book with her selfies for my coffee table. Most self portrait are serious and some are a bit playful. Others are well thought out and planned. Some are even spontaneous. Some seem very reverent. She is never with anyone in her planned self reflections. Next, I am tackling 'A Photographer Found' I can't wait to find out about her history, letters, journals, life, career, affections, and photography history. She must have had an interesting life. I find all her work fascinating and adore that it was found and is being shared. Her thoughts, gifts and life lives on through these photos.

Vivian Maier is a wonder and these self-portraits are uniformly sensational. I originally got the book from the library but was so impressed I decided to buy a copy. The book itself is beautifully printed and well-composed, but the work... amazing!

If you are interested in self portraits, this is a book to consider. Vivian Maier used unusual situations and locations to photograph herself. I bought the book and I would buy it again. But . . . I bought my book in Kindle and I think a hardbound book would have been a better choice. Kindle is great for

novels but photography books and cookbooks do not really work in Kindle because you cannot move back and forth easily between photographs or recipes.

It's an Ok book. I bought both self portraits and street photographer by John Maloof. There are some repetitive images but Street Photographer showcases much more diverse Vivian's works. Self-Portraits's layout may need a better arrangement. I like images have white background frame however they are kind small. Several pages left completely white blank pages, a bit disappointed. Overall is an ok book not the best. If you want to purchase between both I recommend street photographer.

Vivian Maier's self-portraits are full of wit and cleverness. They are portraits of an intense and playful mind as much as of physical beings or objects. And when you add the fact that Maier's talent was only "discovered" after her death, the photographs make for even more affecting images.

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