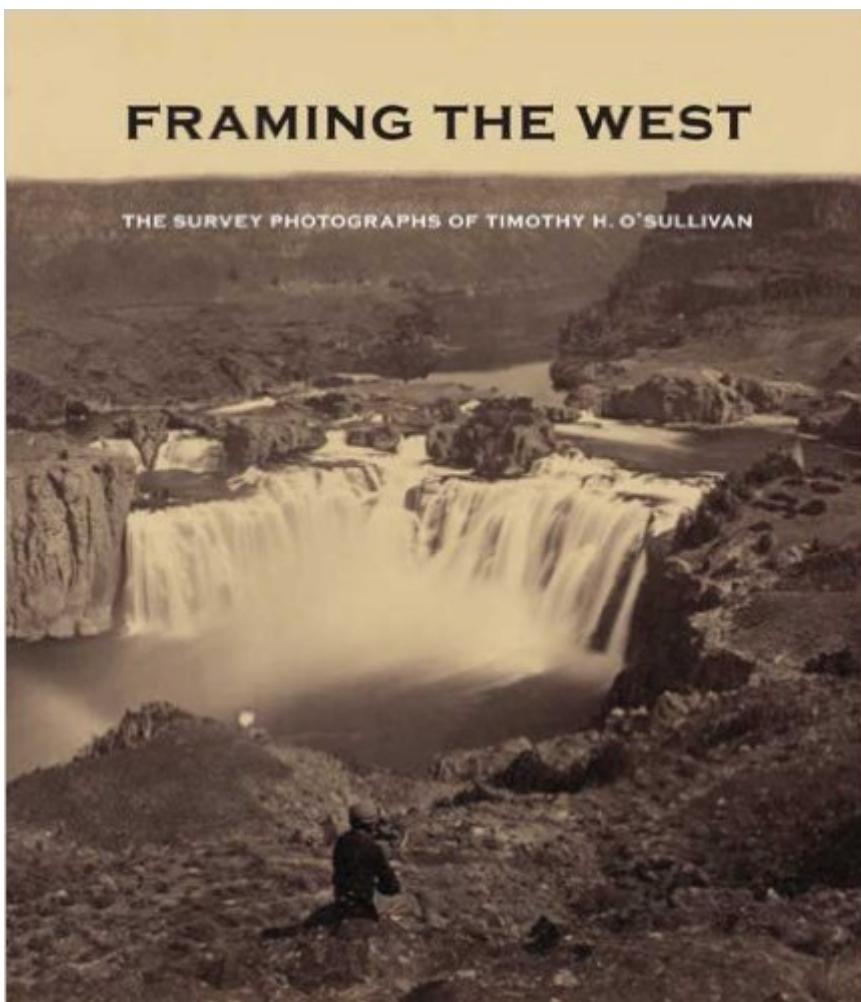


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# Framing The West: The Survey Photographs Of Timothy H. O'Sullivan



## Synopsis

The image of the untamed American West persists as one of our country's most enduring cultural myths, and few photographers have captured more compelling images of the frontier than Timothy H. O'Sullivan. Trained under Mathew Brady, O'Sullivan accompanied several government expeditions to the West, most notably with geologist Clarence King in 1867 and cartographer George M. Wheeler in 1871. Along these journeys, O'Sullivan produced many beautiful photographs that exhibit a forthright and rigorous style formed in response to the landscapes he encountered. Faced with challenging terrain and lacking previous photographic examples on which to rely, O'Sullivan created a body of work that was without precedent in its visual and emotional complexities. The first major publication on O'Sullivan in more than thirty years, *Framing the West* offers a new aesthetic and formal interpretation of O'Sullivan's photographs and assesses his influence on the larger photographic canon. The book features previously unpublished and rarely seen images and serves as a field guide for O'Sullivan's original prints, presenting them for the first time in sequence with the chronology of their production.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For anyone interested in the Survey photography of Timothy H. O'Sullivan - this is a clearly written, well-researched book. The first in-depth publication on O'Sullivan in nearly 30 years; an excellent complimentary companion to earlier publications like James Horan's (1966) "Timothy O'Sullivan: America's Forgotten Photographer", Joel Snyder (1981) "American Frontiers - the Photographs of

Timothy H. O'Sullivan, 1867 - 1874" and Rick Dingus (1982) " The Photographic Artifacts of Timothy O'Sullivan". For those looking specifically for material on O'Sullivan's Survey stereoviews - there is no better source. The book contains three essays 1) Framing the West: The Survey photographs of Timothy H. O'Sullivan - by Toby Jurovics; 2) Through Magic Lenses: Timothy H. O'Sullivan's Stereographs from the King and Wheeler Surveys - by Carol M. Johnson and "Photographing under Difficulties": Andrew Russell's Photographs for the King Survey - by Glenn Williamson. Also included is an excellent, very thorough, well documented chronology of O'Sullivan by William F. Stapp. It also contains a section of 98 of O'Sullivan's full plate photographs from both the King and Wheeler surveys. Many other illustrations and reproductions of O'Sullivan's work are portrayed throughout the book. Carol Johnson has reproduced 13 of his stereoviews, most reproduced full size, from both the King and Wheeler surveys. Jurovics' essay is a well-researched scholarly portrayal of O'Sullivan. He touches on O'Sullivan's early Civil War work, discusses various aspects of King's "Survey of the Fortieth Parallel" and the survey's relation to some of its predecessors - by Fremont, Bonneville and others. For those not familiar with the wet-plate photo process used by O'Sullivan, he presents a brief outline.

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