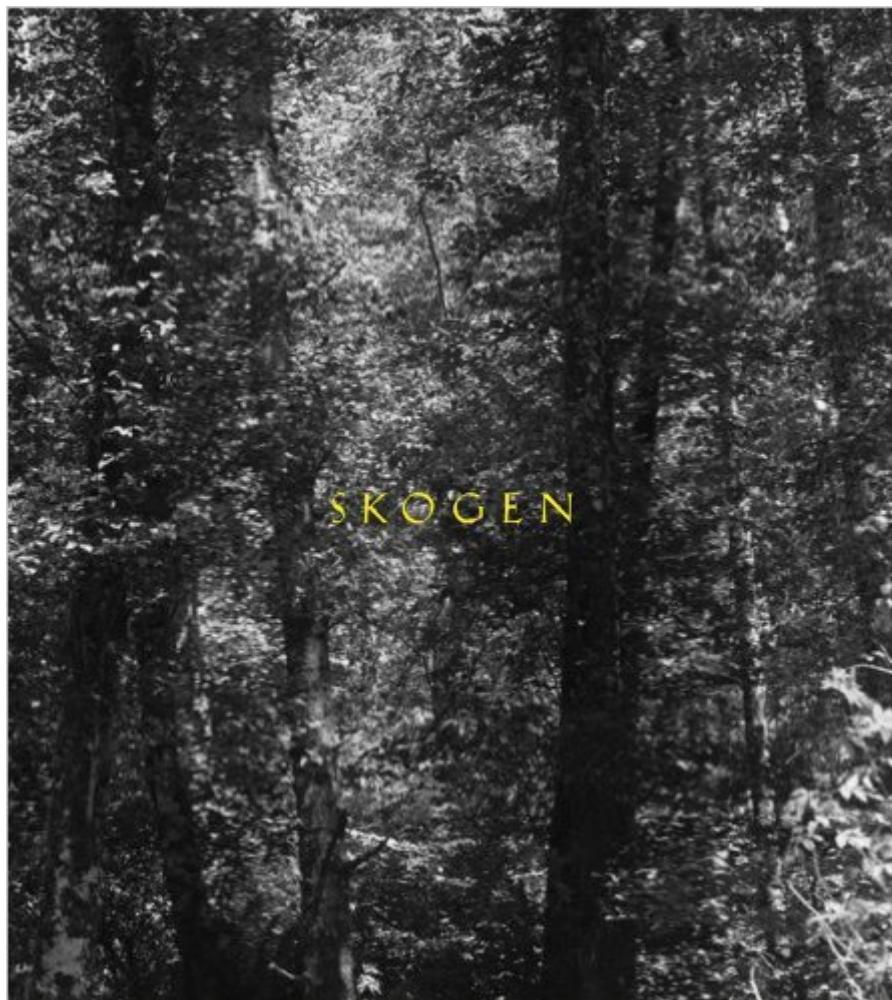


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# Skogen (Yale University Art Gallery)



## Synopsis

Skogen is the Swedish word for forest, and while the dense woods featured in Robert Adams's most recent series of photographs grow near his home in Oregon, the pictures evoke a wild utopia, and convey a hushed, primeval awe. In this volume, the latest to document Adams's ongoing quest to find form amid the chaos of nature, shadows predominate, tempered by an ambiguous light that is unique to the Pacific Northwest. Skogen features forty-six previously unpublished images, a body of work that is among the most pictorially complex of Adams's distinguished career. Also included are an introduction by the artist and a poem by the acclaimed poet Denise Levertov. This pairing is meaningful; as Michael Fried wrote in Bookforum, "Adams's artistic ideal...has much in common with that of a certain sort of lyric poem, one that similarly has not the slightest room for carelessness of any sort."

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (3 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

As someone who has savored Robert Adams photographs for several decades, Skogen is a delight--simple pictures made in fragments of woodlands near his home. Opening the book is like entering a forest--one can almost feel the temperature drop, the noise disappear, and the cares of the world ease. The woodlands do not appear to be old growth stands or clear-cuts, mostly they seem to be the product more of benign neglect rather than any human intention. After the savaging of the forests that Adams documented in "Looking Back", this book feels like a relief--evidence that

the forests we have are still worthy of our attention. Ansel Adams made pictures of grand landscapes that encouraged generations of tourists to leave their homes in the cities to travel to see "the wilderness". Robert Adams pictures encourage a different kind of journey--by showing us the beauty in common places, he encourages us to find simple places near where we live, where we, too, can find the silence and the solace we need. Skogen is a beautiful physical object--thick hardbound covers, lovely tritone printing--a perfect book. The book contains 46 plates, mostly one to a spread, and is about 11x11 inches--it feels (and is) a substantial book.

I purchased this special for visiting Skogens from Norway. They loved the picture book and passed it around.

Maybe this review will only show my ignorance but I thought these photos were flat, lacked sharpness and plain boring. I've enjoyed Mr. Adams other books but this one just didn't do it for me.

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