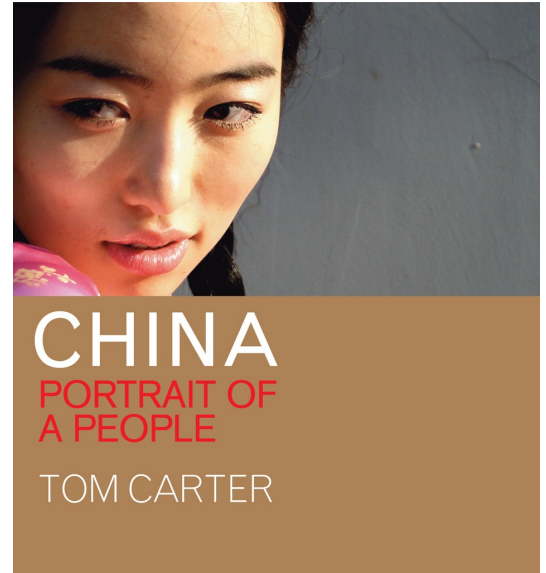


CHINA: Portrait of a People

TRAVEL / PHOTOGRAPHY / CHINA by Tom Carter, with an epilogue by Mian Mian

1 COUNTRY, 56 CULTURES
 1.3 BILLION PEOPLE, 33 PROVINCES
 2 YEARS, 56,000 KILOMETERS
 A PHOTOGRAPHER AND HIS CAMERA

The Beijing Olympics focused the world's eyes on China. But despite increased tourism and rampant foreign investment, the cultural distance between China and the West remains as vast as the oceans that separate them. The Middle Kingdom is still relatively unknown by Westerners. China is in fact made up of 33 distinct regions populated by 56 ethnic groups – and American photojournalist Tom Carter has visited them all. This little book is a visual tribute to the People's Republic of China, with an ardent emphasis on the People.



Reviews

"Tom Carter is an extraordinary photographer whose powerful work captures the heart and soul of the Chinese people." — **Anchee Min**, author of *Red Azalea* and *Empress Orchid*

"*CHINA: Portrait of a People* is not to be dismissed as another light-hearted snapshot collection. But neither is it heavy socio-political commentary. Photojournalist-cum-travel writer Tom Carter has successfully struck a fine balance between the two, dividing the 600-plus pages of annotated photography into 33 chapters, a document of the two years he spent travelling in different Chinese provinces." — **HK Magazine**

"Carter's subjects are casual, un-posed, unrehearsed. He manages to achieve an extraordinary intimacy, not just with cute kids and young women, but with worshippers at a mosque, with a miner caked in coal dust changing his clothes at the end of a shift. He clearly must have considerable charm to have achieved these candid snaps of people who are normally shy of having their picture taken. But as he says, and people who travel the country soon find out, ordinary Chinese people are extraordinarily warm with foreigners." — **China.org.cn**

"Are you one of those kooks who spends more time staring at the Forbidden City workers than at the place itself? If so, you're in good company with Tom Carter. *CHINA: Portrait of a People* forsakes temple and tower to focus on China's many faces. For those who read more in a twinkling eye or a lined brow than in a slate roof, the book is a revelation, providing a more honest picture of this turbulent land than a rack of China travel books pre-approved by the Ministry of Information." — **China Expat**

"A study well worth having on your bookshelf." — **South China Morning Post**

(continued)

"It takes a great boldness of spirit to set out to capture the essence of so diverse a people as the Chinese in a single volume of photography. The thrill is to discover that Tom Carter has achieved just that." — **Chris Wood**, Editor-in-Chief, *Asia Literary Review*

"Tom gives us an incredible insight to the people of China, from poor to wealthy, young to old. You can see he gets into their culture and delivers a fabulous insider view, capturing emotions through the lens. Each region has a selection of Tom's photos with brief, but informative captions. It's not a travel guide or a photography technique guide but it will keep you enthralled for hours at a time." — **ePhotozine**

"Tom Carter's photo book is an honest and objective record of the Chinese and our way of life... his camera leads us through 33 wide-sweeping scenes of the real and the surreal." — **Mian Mian**, author of *Candy*

"...a striking, kaleidoscopic vision of China's lands and people, covering all 33 provinces." — **The Beijinger**

"The images veer between the light-hearted (laughing children playing on a sand dune in Gansu), titillating (a pair of female KTV hostesses in Shandong lean in for a kiss), appalling (a mentally ill girl lies in the middle of the road as cars just pass her by), and thought provoking (the worn and sunburned face of a destitute old Tibetan lady). But there is a constant — the peering visages of all ethnicities, of all China. Through Carter's journey of self-discovery, we end up discovering a little more about ourselves — and a land so vast, so disparate, that 638 pages of photos barely manage to scratch the surface. Still, *Portrait of a People* is a very good place to start peeling back the layers." — **Time Out Hong Kong**

About the Author

Writer and photographer Tom Carter, 36, was born and raised in San Francisco and graduated with a degree in Political Science from the American University in Washington, D.C. Following a political career with a number of state and national campaigns, Tom spent 18 months backpacking down the length of Mexico and Central America. Most recently, Tom has spent the past four years in the People's Republic of China, where he made his own two-year Long March throughout all of the country's 33 provinces and autonomous regions – one of the few living Westerners able to make this claim. Tom's work as a photojournalist and travel writer has been published in many English-language periodicals in China. He currently lives in Beijing.

Book Details

Genre: Travel / Photography / China
ISBN: 978-988-99799-4-2
Format: Softcover with jacket, 15cm x 15cm, 6" x 6"
640 pages, full colour, with maps of each province of China
Cover price: HK\$198 / US\$24.95

Further Information

Pete Spurrier at Blacksmith Books, Hong Kong: tel. (+852) 2877 7899 - pete@blacksmithbooks.com

Sample spreads from the book can be viewed online at www.blacksmithbooks.com
