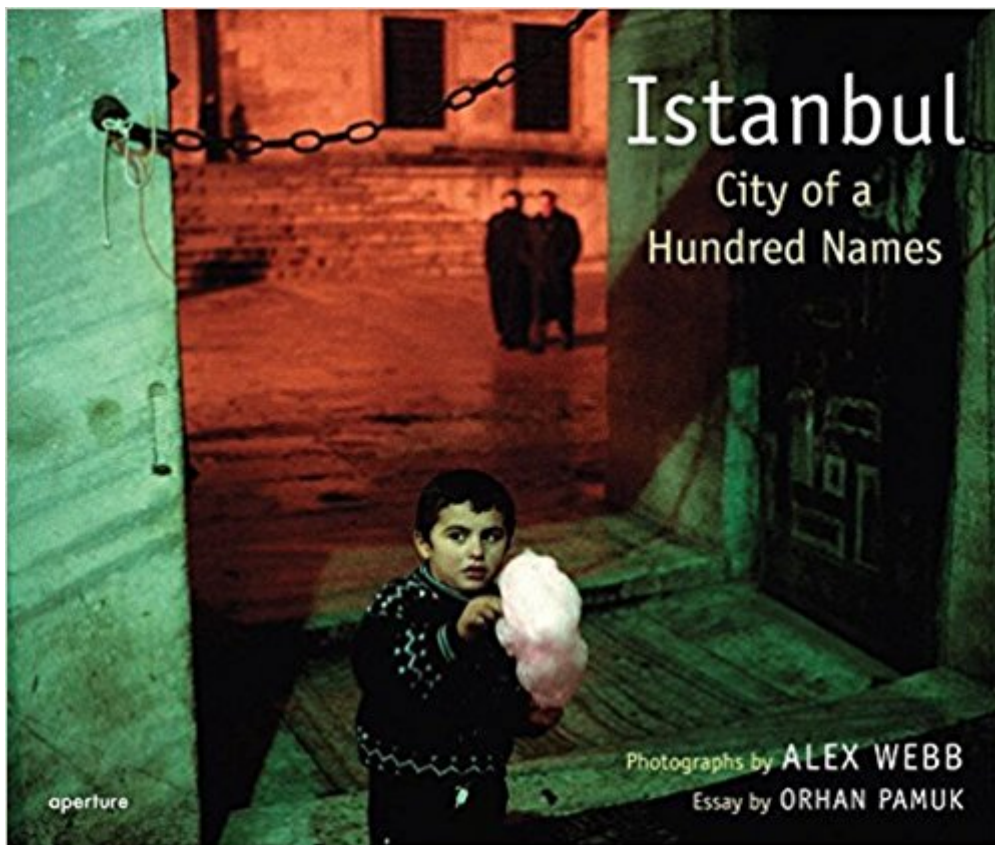


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# Istanbul: City Of A Hundred Names



## Synopsis

In "Istanbul: City of a Hundred Names," Magnum photographer Alex Webb displays his particular ability to distill gesture, color and contrasting cultural tensions into a single, beguiling frame. He presents a vision of Istanbul as an urban cultural center, rich with the incandescence of its past--a city of minarets and pigeons rising to the heavens during the early-morning call to Muslim prayers--yet also a city riddled with ATM machines and clothed in designer jeans. Webb began photographing Istanbul in 1998, and became instantly enthralled: by the people, the layers of culture and history, the richness of street life. But what particularly drew him in was a sense of Istanbul as a border city, lying between Europe and Asia. "For 30-some years as a photographer, I have been intrigued by borders, places where cultures come together, sometimes easily, sometimes roughly." The resulting body of work, some of Webb's strongest to date, conveys the frisson of a culture in transition, yet firmly rooted in a complex history. With essay by the Nobel Prize winning novelist, Orhan Pamuk.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Istanbul: City of a Hundred Names documents his incredible vision of this border city, lying between Europe and Asia, an urban cultural center rich with the incandescence of its past." --Photo District News"Illuminating and enlightening." -- Jake Elliot --Flux Magazine"Webb uses color and a sense of moment to reveal a rich, complex world created from clashing cultures." --American Photo"He captures the city's vibrant colors, but in a completely unsentimental way; in fact, the

overall mood is one of *hüzûn*, the Turkish word for melancholy and spiritual yearning."  
-- Sarah Coleman --Planet Magazine"His pictures are all deep shadows balanced by theatrical  
flashes of light; his framing captures both burqa-clad crones and pouting models." -- Michael Kerr  
--The Telegraph

Alex Webb is best known for his vibrant and complex color photography, often made in Latin America and the Caribbean. He has published eleven books, including *Violet Isle: A Duet of Photographs from Cuba* (with Rebecca Norris Webb) and *The Suffering of Light*, a collection of thirty years of his color work. Alex became a full member of Magnum Photos in 1979. His work has been shown widely, including at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. He has received numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2007. His work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, and *GEO*, among other publications. Orhan Pamuk is the author of such novels as *"The New Life"*, *"The Black Book"*, *"My Name Is Red"* and *"The White Castle"*. He has won numerous international awards, including the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2006. He lives with his wife and daughter in Istanbul.

With *"Istanbul"* Alex Webb seems to be hitting an apex in his style. It is amazing. All of his photos are complex juxtapositions of humans in their environment. His color is too saturated for my taste (detail is obliterated in his shadows), but I see what he is doing, and it works toward that end. But do I see what he is doing? I've never been to Istanbul, but I certainly don't feel like I've been there through this book. (The essay by Orhan Pamuk has zero to do with the images. Add a generic essay about Istanbul by the city's most famous author and it will help sell a book of photos that is, well, maybe more about the photographer than the city ... ) Is there a single happy face in this book? I've only seen grim, suspicious looks. Is that Istanbul, or is that Webb? Webb's strength is as a visual puzzle master. A technique that he has perfected here is his use of capturing images in mirrors and reflections. It is all confusion and dislocation, done supremely well -- as photo-surrealism. But "warmth" is not an adjective to be used in any way to describe his images, other than their saturated reds. (Even those offer heat rather than comfort.) I see this book as a fantastic tool for discussion of composition. It isn't a book to get to know Istanbul or humanity -- but maybe a great way to get to know Alex Webb.

Superb book Quality. Amazing photographer, and this work is into his best ever.

I guess I had bigger expectations. The quality of the paper matches the price :(

Istanbul is photographed with a complexity that only Webb can achieve. Webb spent years visiting Istanbul to create a very thorough depiction of the city. He uses a great deal of formal structure and his unique photographic toolbox (simultaneous events, deep shadow, mirrors, obscured elements, frames within frames) to intrigue the viewer. Istanbul flows intuitively from start to finish and is a beautiful book that anyone would enjoy.

my favorite photo book by Alex Webb. We all know he is a master of composition and color. the backdrop of tension and mystery just pushes it above any other book he's done. too bad it's so hard to find. an absolute gem.

Books arrived in great condition and very happy to have the books signed by both Webb and Orhan Pamuk. Signature Webb style photography accompanied by lovely writing by Orhan Pamuk

De este libro de fotografia merecen ser destacados dos aspectos: el primero, la edicion misma, muy cuidada y muy acertada en las dimensiones de las fotografias; y el segundo, las fotos que contiene, originales en composicion y en el uso del color y del claroscuro. Un libro que se disfruta enormemente.

A must have for any Webb enthusiast or street photographer in general. The book is beautifully printed and produced. A unique view of the streets of Istanbul.

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