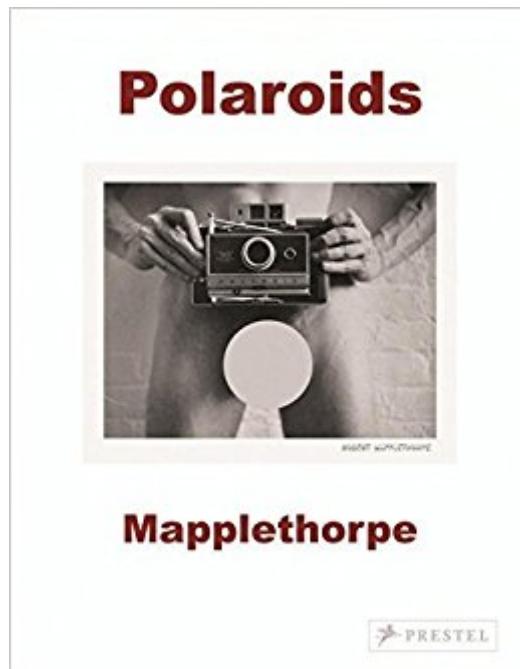


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# Robert Mapplethorpe: Polaroids



## Synopsis

Robert Mapplethorpe's black-and-white Polaroid photographs of the 1970s—a medium in which he established the style that would bring him international acclaim—are brought together in this new paperback edition. Critically praised for his finely modeled and classically composed photographs, Robert Mapplethorpe remains intensely controversial and enormously popular. This book brings together almost 300 images from the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation's archive and private collections to provide a critical view of Mapplethorpe's formative years as an artist, revealing the themes that would inspire Mapplethorpe throughout his career. Included is a selection of color Polaroids and objects incorporating his early "instant" photography. Some images convey a disarming tenderness and vulnerability, others a toughness and immediacy that would give way in later years to more classical form. The author traces the development of Mapplethorpe's use of instant photography over a period of five years, from 1970 to 1975, when the artist worked mainly in this medium. The images include self-portraits; figure studies; still lifes; portraits of lovers and friends such as Patti Smith, Sam Wagstaff, and Marianne Faithful; and observations of everyday objects. Marked by a spontaneity and creative curiosity, these fragile images offer an illuminating contrast to the glossy perfection of the work for which Mapplethorpe is best known, allowing us a more personal glimpse of his artistry.

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## Customer Reviews

Robert Mapplethorpe's black-and-white Polaroid photographs of the 1970s—a medium in which he established the style that would bring him international acclaim—are brought together in this new paperback edition. Marked by a spontaneity and creative curiosity, these fragile images offer an illuminating contrast to the glossy perfection of the work for which Mapplethorpe is best known, allowing us a more personal glimpse of his artistry.

Sylvia Wolf is director of the Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington. She is the author of numerous critical works on photography, including *The Digital Eye: Photographic Art in the Digital Age* (Prestel).

You can't go wrong with a Mapplethorpe on your shelf, this is my 3rd book on him and his collections are just so interesting to me. I tried to emulate him in undergrad with a few projects my professor handed to me. In hindsight, I think my professor got me into his work because she saw me struggle with my sexual identity AND she wanted me to get laid, finally.

This is a gorgeous beautiful sexy book. Gorgeous! Highly recommend. Sigh... It's just beautiful.

Great book, great photographer

Amazing read print quality is amazing highly recommended

Great!

Book in perfect conditions. Amazing.

The four years of research the author undertook in order to create this large collection, in context and with biography, is evident. There are some color images on the first few pages, and then about 40 pages of text with additional images to build the story of Mapplethorpe and this early work of his. It's a mix of bio, critiques, interpretations, and questions about what might have been the motivation or inspiration for a particular style or photograph being discussed. Context is important. When he began creating these images, the world was a different place than it is now. Yes, many challenges remain, but back in the 70's, many of the subjects on which Mapplethorpe focuses were not out in the "mainstream", as it were. In other words, his life and decision, his desire, to share with us are

significant. It makes me wonder more than a little what his experience would have been in a later era. I'm kind of rediscovering my love of his photographs, the obvious experimentation, and his own discoveries and curiosity about what he sees. It's been quite some time since I've interacted with his work, especially these early images. I'm in love all over again. There are over 150 B&W polaroids printed in this book. They're presented on heavy stock paper, and there's even a slight raise to the images thanks to the brilliant ink usage in guaranteeing each image is exactly like its original. The majority of these were only ever seen by a few before being published here and, for me, they deepen my appreciation of Mapplethorpe's work, and all of the feelings it invokes. Rediscovery, broadened perspective, and plain ol' enjoyment are all buoyed by the not insignificant dash of nostalgia each time glimpses of the 70's reveal themselves.

Knowing that new books were coming out so I reread the series so I could remember the earlier characters. This book I think was my favorite though I love all of them. I meet Wheland again after his relationship with Cooper who found a life partner with Jayson. Cooper and Wheland would participate in threesomes. Cooper and Wheland would fool around together. Cooper realized he was gay and posed that possibility to Wheland. Wheland had tragic family life so on the date felt he felt his world fell apart family wise. On the way to the bar he got into a traffic accident with an old friend Sonny Rooselli a musician with another rock band he and rooster went to dinner to get reacquainted. Rooster left LA beaches got divorced and hated touring. Wheland invited him to stay at his estate. Rooster agrees and is shown the guest room. Wheland is instantly attracted to Rooster. They write and record some music together. When they finally become honest about their attraction was off the charts. Wheland finds out that they are going on a world tour. Wheland knowing Rooster aka Sonny hates touring which means he won't want to go on tour with Wheland AKA Mick. Their relationship is so new he doesn't want distance to ruin anything. Sonny is recording with his band he can't go on tour but he promises to try to meet up at some point. Nervous to let his band know about Sonny they all are happy for Mick and supportive. They even think about a surrogate for a baby both want a forever family together. I loved Wheland in the earlier book I adore him and Sonny together.

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