

George F. Thompson Publishing, LLC

217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.

BOOK INFORMATION SHEET



Authors: John Willis and Tom Young

Title: *Recycled Realities*

Contributors: with a conclusion by Martha A. Sandweiss

Number and type of illustrations: 51 quadtone photographs
by the authors

Book pages: 80

Trim size: 11.0" x 9.75" (landscape)

List price: \$45.00 U.S.

Discount: Trade

ISBN: 978-1-938086-31-1

LOC Number: [TC]

Edition: Clothbound

Jacket: yes

Edition size: ca. 675

Projected publishing season: Fall 2015

Advances: n/a

To warehouse: February 2015

Publication date: February 2015

Distributor: Casemate/International Publishers Marketing

Bookstore categories: Photography/Art/Environmental Studies

Audience:

This book has reached iconic status with curators and collectors of photography. But, given its subject, it also appeals to a broad-based environmental crowd.

George F. Thompson Publishing, LLC

217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.

Description of the work:

Near the homes of photographers John Willis and Tom Young is a paper mill that sits in the otherwise pristine and picturesque climes of western Massachusetts. For Willis and Young, this site is one of both aesthetic and philosophical contradictions: despite its verdant locale, the mill—with its smokestacks and countless bales of discarded paper—brings to mind the dreariness of industrialization and the impermanence of life itself. But the factory is actually one where such litter is reborn as reusable paper.

Willis and Young’s quadtone photographs transform this mill and the innumerable mounds of recyclable waste it processes daily into an indelible and evocative landscape. *Recycled Realities* is not a jeremiad foretelling the consequences of excessive waste, rampant pollution, or unbridled consumption but rather a profound meditation on the hidden connections and meanings that linger beneath the debris and detritus of everyday life.

These unforgettable images of discarded paper from the printed world trace the processes of emergence, revelation, and redemption that make the cycle of life possible. In their artwork, Willis and Young take that which we have discarded and create new forms of being in and of themselves: vibrant and ultimately life-affirming portraits of who we are as people and the realities that we constantly build—and rebuild—all around us.

Blurbs:

“John Willis and Tom Young’s haunting photographs transform a New England paper mill factory and its mounds of raw material—recyclable printed matter cast off from the insatiable publishing industry—into an evocative archeological landscape, a contemporary Babel.”

—Deborah Martin Kao, Chief Curator of the Harvard University Art Museums

“*Recycled Realities* is a book by two true visual poets, and it is difficult to imagine a richer or more fortunate collaboration. At a time when population and excessive consumption are deeply serious concerns worldwide, John Willis and Tom Young have made splendid, positive, lyrical images out of the waste and debris left over from our busy lives. ‘Man buys what he destroys,’ Frederick Sommer reminds us, and then goes on to assure us that it is the nature of the poetic act which secures our place in a world we do not control. *Recycled Realities* is such a poetic act and a marvelous visual accomplishment, all at once.”

—Emmet Gowin, Professor of Photography, Emeritus, Princeton University

George F. Thompson Publishing, LLC

217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.

“In this wonderful book, the momentary and continually changing reality of the physical present is displaced by the ubiquitous and seemingly permanent static image: the photograph being the most disquieting of these. In *Recycled Realities*, evolution is witnessed as an inevitable process whereby all things and beings are recycled by the one true—and apparently eternal, but still largely unknown—reality: nature, the ultimate recycler. And nature is an extraordinary visual event, as is revealed in these remarkable photographs. *Recycled Realities* is ultimately a sad story, but happiness abounds along the way.”

—Carl Chiarenza, Fanny Knapp Allen Professor of Art History, Emeritus, University of Rochester

“John Willis and Tom Young find surreal juxtapositions among texts and images pressed together in bales. Their long views emphasize our voracious consumption of paper products and the industry it has spawned, while close-ups form an exquisite corpse of collected waste. Together the photographs in *Recycled Realities* imbue the discarded stuff of everyday life with beauty, significance, and grace.”

—Syvia Wolf, Director, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington

About the Authors (long):

John Willis was born in 1957 in Stamford, Connecticut. He received his M.F.A. in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1986. He is currently a professor at Marlboro College and co-founder of the In-Sight Photography Project and the Exposures cross-cultural youth photography program, which offers courses to southern Vermont’s youth, regardless of their ability to pay. He has been awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Photography, five Artist Fellowships from the Vermont Council on the Arts, and two from the Vermont Arts Endowment Fund. His work is included in numerous permanent collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. His photographic work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and it has appeared in various publications, including *LensWork*, *Orion* magazine, and *Flesh and Blood, Photographers and Their Families* published by *The Picture Project*. He resides in Dummerston, Vermont.

George F. Thompson Publishing, LLC

217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.

Tom Young was born in 1951 in Boston, Massachusetts. He received his M.F.A. in photography from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1977. He is currently a professor of art, emeritus, at Greenfield Community College in Greenfield, Massachusetts. He has been awarded an Artist Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and four Artist Fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. His work is included in numerous permanent collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Polaroid International Collection in Offenbach, Germany, and Harvard University's Fogg Museum. Young's work has been exhibited internationally, including the International Center of Photography in New York City, the Frans Hals Museum in Harlem, The Netherlands, the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, Germany, and the National Museum of Fine Arts at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. In addition to *Recycled Realities*, he is the author of *Timeline: Learning to See with My Eyes Closed* (George F. Thompson Publishing, 2012). His photographs have also appeared in a number of publications, including *Artworks: Tom Young* (Williams College Museum of Art), *American Perspectives* (Tokyo Museum of Photography), *Goodbye to Apple Pie* (DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts), and *2 to Tango: Collaboration in Recent American Photography* (International Center of Photography). He resides in Buckland, Massachusetts.

About the Authors (short):

John Willis is a professor at Marlboro College in Vermont whose photographs are included in numerous permanent collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. His photographic work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and appeared in various publications, including *LensWork*, *Orion*, and *Flesh and Blood, Photographers and Their Families* published by *The Picture Project*. In addition to *Recycled Realities*, he is the author of *Views from the Reservation* (Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago, 2010). He has been awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Photography, five Artist Fellowships from the Vermont Council on the Arts, and two from the Vermont Arts Endowment Fund.

Tom Young is a professor of art, emeritus, at Greenfield Community College in Greenfield, Massachusetts, whose photographs are included in numerous permanent collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Polaroid International Collection in Offenbach, Germany, and Harvard

George F. Thompson Publishing, LLC

217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.

University's Fogg Museum. Young's work has been exhibited internationally, including the International Center of Photography in New York City, the Frans Hals Museum in Harlem, The Netherlands, the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, Germany, and the National Museum of Fine Arts at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. In addition to *Recycled Realities*, he is the author of *Timeline: Learning to See with My Eyes Closed* (George F. Thompson Publishing, 2012). He has been awarded an Artist Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and four Artist Fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

About the Contributor (long):

Martha A. Sandweiss is a professor of history at Princeton University. Previously, she was professor of American studies and history at Amherst College and the curator of photographs at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. She is the author of numerous award-winning books, including *Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception across the Color Line* (Penguin, 2009), *Print the Legend: Photography in the American West* (Yale, 2002) and *Laura Gilpin: An Enduring Grace* (Amon Carter Museum, 1986), co-author of *Eyewitness to War: Prints and Daguerreotypes of the Mexican War, 1846–1848* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1989), editor of *Photography in Nineteenth-Century America* (Abrams, 1991), and co-editor of *The Oxford History of the American West* (Oxford, 1994). She has served on the governing boards of the American Antiquarian Society, Center for American Places, and Organization of American Historians and has received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, Beinecke Library at Yale University, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Rockefeller Foundation.

About the Contributor (short):

Martha A. Sandweiss is a professor of history at Princeton University and the author of many prize-winning books, including *Passing Strange: A Gilded Age Tale of Love and Deception across the Color Line* (Penguin, 2009), *Print the Legend: Photography in the American West* (Yale, 2002), and *Laura Gilpin: An Enduring Grace* (Amon Carter Museum, 1986).