



FEATURE

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VIEWS OF THE BRIDGE

Inspired by Hokusai's seminal series of woodblock prints of Mount Fuji, American photographer **Arthur Drooker** repeated the exercise with an altogether different subject and medium – Golden Gate Bridge and photography.

Between 1830 and 1832, Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai created a series of woodblock prints of Mount Fuji from various locations. *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji* became a seminal collection, influencing a variety of artists.

Nearly 200 years later, American photographer Arthur Drooker was inspired by Hokusai and spent two years photographing the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, trying to find fresh perspectives on the familiar sight. He set himself three rules: make no postcard shots, make only black & white pictures and make pictures from unusual vantage points to place the bridge within its environment.

Drooker's pictures can be seen in a new book, *Thirty-Six Views of the Golden Gate Bridge*. Writing in the introduction, he describes how the project became an exercise in seeing and gave him a deep admiration for those who designed and built the bridge.

Gary Kamiya, who also writes an essay in the book, says: 'Drooker's series is playful and profound. By photographing the Golden Gate Bridge from dozens of unexpected vantage points, he defamiliarises the great span, rescuing it from our received mental postcards of an icon we think we know and transforming it into something fresh and strange.'



Thirty-Six Views of the Golden Gate Bridge by Arthur Drooker is available from arthurdrooker.com, price \$75.

- Left (top) **Leaving Fog City**
- Below (left) **Marin Highlands**
- Below (right) **Cat's Cradle**
- Opposite (top left) **East Beach**
- Opposite (top right) **Fort Point**
- Opposite (below left) **Marshall's Beach**
- Opposite (below right) **Sailing the South Tower**

