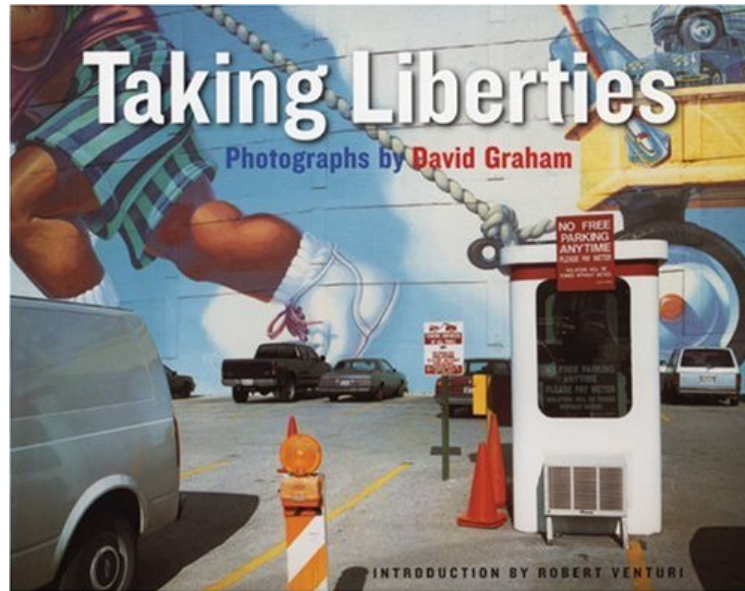


## Taking Liberties

David Graham

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**David Graham : Taking Liberties** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taking Liberties:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. David's uncommon viewBy RobinAnother collection of photos from David Graham that captures so well the exuberance of the American commercial landscape. I recently reviewed another of his books, 'Declaring Independence' (ISBN 0966677684) which is the fourth in what I hope is a continuing series. 'Taking Liberties' is the third book and the sixty-seven exterior photos are bursting with visual delights. To be honest they are only everyday commercial scenes to be seen anywhere but it needs a creative eye to capture the ordinary and turn it into something that just seems so right. On page forty-three there is a street scene in Livingston, Montana, a black pick-up truck, a movie house and other business premises, a couple sitting on a bench, bits of commercial signage here and there, some sky and sidewalk all blending into a seamless composition. So many of the images in the book have this kind of stop and look intensity. One reason I like these books of David Graham's photos is the very clean presentation, the images are centred on the page, nothing angled or bleeding of the page edge. This simple, classic photobook layout enhances the work shown. 'Taking Liberties' and 'Declaring Independence' are both worth owning if you like to look at an uncommon view of American commonplace.

One of America's most important contemporary photographers shares his latest installment of documents in Taking Liberties, a collection of 65 beautifully produced full-color photographs with an introduction by the prominent American architect Robert Venturi. Graham's myriad subjects include 3,000 miles of full-color roadside attractions, and a world of general oddities. Taking his inspiration from the United States Constitution, David Graham has tirelessly traveled the entire continental United States seeking out those Americans who are serious about their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—from the California dentist who sculpts mammoth Amazon warriors to the Dallas hamburger stand that features a life size statue of Lenin. The book is a jubilant and highly amusing celebration

of the freedom of expression that is truly American, and it will appeal to photography and architecture lovers as well as fans of American kitsch. David Graham is a noted photographer whose other books include *Only in America* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1991) and *American Beauty* (Aperture, 1987). *Taking Liberties* is the third book of this trilogy. Graham teaches at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and works regularly for such magazines as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Fortune*, and *Forbes*. His photographs are included in the collections of the New York's Museum of Modern Art, Philadelphia Art Museum, Art Institute of Chicago, and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Robert Venturi is a renowned American architect whose influence extends throughout the world. A respected theorist and artist, he is also the author of *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture* (Museum of Modern Art) and *Learning from Las Vegas* (MIT Press) with Denise Scott Brown. Among his best known projects are the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery in London and the Seattle Art Museum.

About the Author David Graham is an important contemporary photographer. His previous publications include *American Beauty* (Aperture), *Only in America* (Knopf), and *Land of the Free* (Aperture). His photographs are included in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.