

DAGUERREOTYPES***Jerry Spagnoli*****Published by Steidl****56 Pages; 112 color****\$40. Softbound**

■ **One Hundred** and sixty odd years after the discovery of photography, after thousands of technological advances have relegated the gift of light to an arrangement of ones and zeros, a modern master of the daguerreotype has revived the beauty, artistry and surprise of the original form. Jerry Spagnoli celebrates the awesome power of photography using the methods of 19th century photographers. In this intriguing volume he explores a variety of subjects and genres, including the human body, landscapes, documentary, and everyday life. Street scenes of New York seem electrified. His documents of 9/11 and its aftermath are haunting and emotional. Close-ups of body parts - a woman's braided hair, a closed eye, an outstretched hand - are mysterious poems emerging out of the darkness that reference the origins of the daguerreotype as portrait. A daguerreotype is a mirror image of its subject, and in these reflections Spagnoli holds a mirror, showing a poignant present already past.