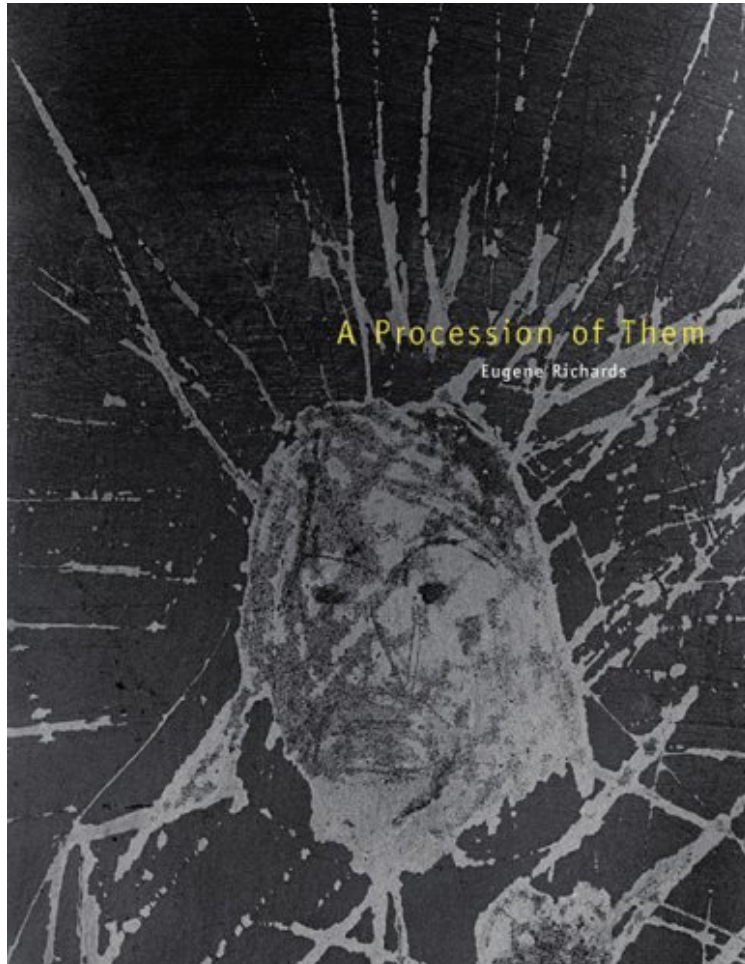


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A Procession of Them (William and Bettye Nowlin Series in Art, History, and Culture)

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From University of Texas Press : A Procession of Them (William and Bettye Nowlin Series in Art, History, and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Procession of Them (William and Bettye Nowlin Series in Art, History, and Culture):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great work ruined by formattingBy Brennen K.This is a wonderful series, but unfortunately the formatting is atrocious. There are no borders around the images and they are displayed across two pages, obscuring the photos.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Peering into the abyssBy John LangmoreIf you are willing to stare into the abyss of the human experience in the way that Gene Richards' photography so masterfully allows, then "A Procession of Them" will not disappoint. Mr. Richards' most powerful work connects viewers to life's abject circumstances (cocaine addiction, racism, and now mental illness) in a way that although appalling, forces one to continue viewing his photographs and sympathizing deeply with his subjects. There

are a few photographers such as James Nachtway and Eugene Richards that have the ability to convey the true essence of human suffering through the still image. This is one of those books that will leave an indelible impression on anyone that picks it up. Your tolerance for human suffering will not be the same after viewing Mr. Richards' latest work. Thanks to UT Press for its treatment of this difficult but important subject. John Langmore 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting By Carody Irish I really enjoyed this book, however, I wanted to know more about the topic. I could really feel the emotion and I understood the feeling behind the photographs. I wanted to know more about the places and the individual people, I think it would have improved the book.

In some countries, they call them the "abandonados," the abandoned ones. They're the impoverished mentally ill and mentally disabled patients being warehoused in psychiatric asylums that are more run-down, more uncaring than the most brutal American prisons. Confined in cage-like cells, tied to beds soiled with human waste, medicated to the point of senselessness, or wandering naked in unheated and garage-like wards, they live in what can only be called the shadows, their plight unseen and too easily ignored by the rest of the human family. Working first as a journalist, later as a volunteer for the human rights organization Mental Disability Rights International, photographer Eugene Richards gained access to psychiatric institutions in Mexico, Argentina, Armenia, Hungary, Paraguay, and Kosovo. His wrenchingly intimate images reveal the often inhumane treatment suffered by the mentally disabled. Offered little that would qualify as effective care, patients are denied even the most basic human amenities: privacy, protection from harm, clean clothing. Accompanying the book, *A Procession of Them*, is a DVD of a short film of the same name. Directed and narrated by Richards, this unique and expressionistic film speaks of the chaos, claustrophobia, and loneliness of these living hells. Making us face some hard truths, *A Procession of Them* drives home the point that when it comes to the plight of the mentally disabled, "no one much cares." As Richards concludes, it's "as if there is a kind of worldwide agreement that once people are classified as mentally ill or mentally retarded, you're free to do to them what you want."

About the Author One of the world's foremost documentary photographers, Eugene Richards has received many of photography's prestigious honors, including the W. Eugene Smith Memorial Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts grants, the Leica Medal of Excellence, the Leica Oskar Barnack Award, the Olivier Rebot Award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Journalism Award for the coverage of the disadvantaged. He has published thirteen books, including *Dorchester Days*; *Exploding into Life*; *Americans We*; *Cocaine True*, *Cocaine Blue*; and *The Fat Baby*. Richards's photographs have appeared in numerous publications, including the *New York Times Magazine*, *Esquire*, *National Geographic*, *Time*, the *New Yorker*, *People*, and *Life*.