

# Aesthetica

## Memory City

Alex Webb and  
Rebecca Norris Webb  
Thames & Hudson



There is something indelibly tragic about *Memory City*. Documenting the city that was home to the company Kodak for 125 years, Alex Webb and Rebecca Norris Webb capture the nostalgia of a lost era. It's a love song to film and to Kodak, who declared bankruptcy in 2012 and had to sell off all their analogue film.

Alex Webb shoots in Kodachrome, a vivid colour film that can now only be processed in black and white, resulting in photographs that are faded and pale. For this project he used his last roll and also captured a few shots in digital. These are interspersed with Rebecca Norris Webb's colour photos, which present a portrait of the women of Rochester. Her unworn dresses and off-camera stares imbue the book with nostalgia whilst Alex Webb's images reflect Kodak's plight, showing worn-down places that hold community and individual value but are fading with time.

It's a sad glimpse into the demise of a once-beloved medium and a changing city. Tinged with sentiment and laced with melancholy, this is a quietly moving, reflective work.

Bryony Byrne

