

American Photography's PROPHOTODAILY

Books: Arthur Drooker Captures the Beauty of Twilight

By David Schonauer Tuesday September 26, 2023



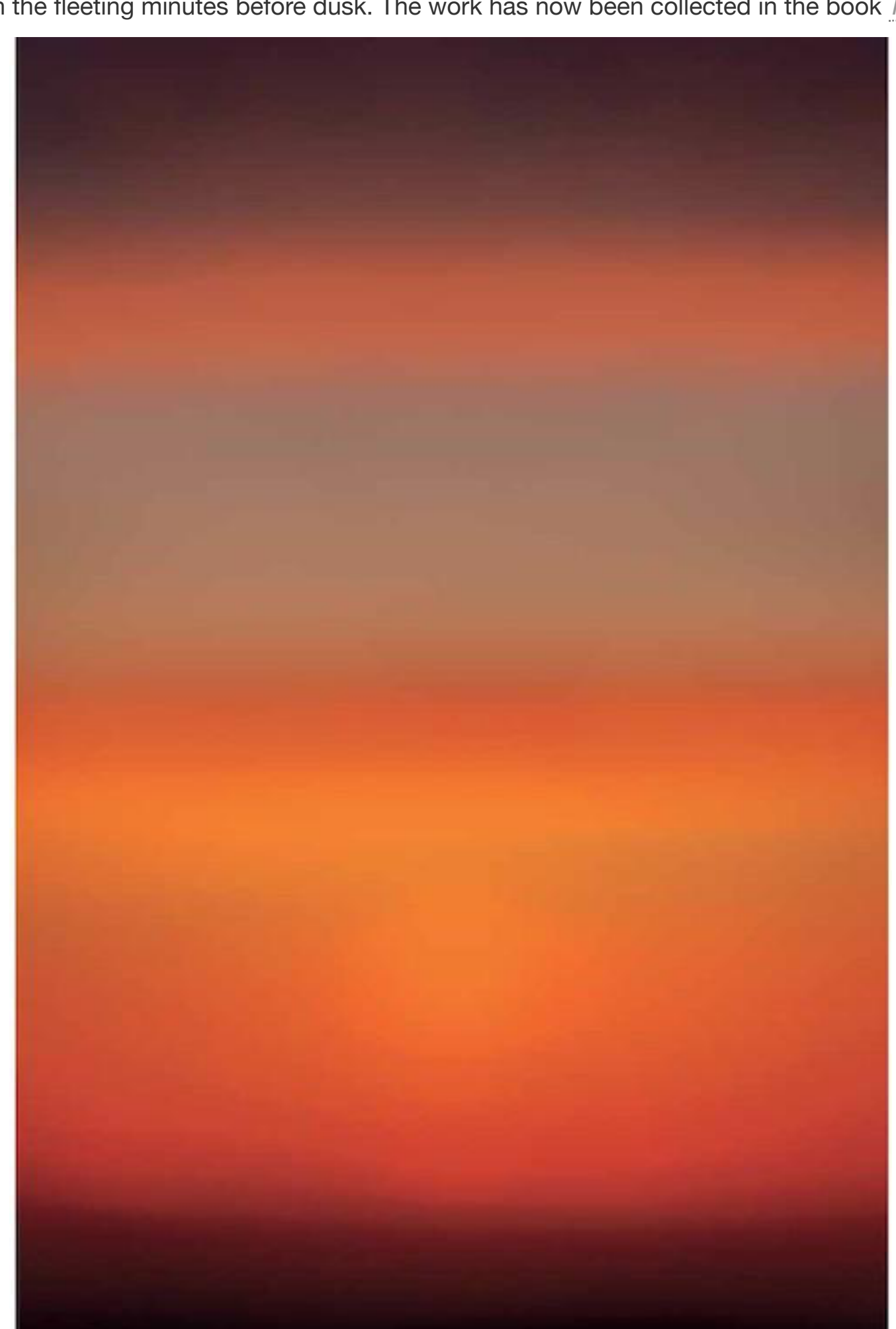
Above: from Arthur Drooker's book Twilight

"Twilight is the time we best. When we dim the light down and the pupil opens, feeling comes out of the eye like touch. Then you really can feel color, and experience it."

So notes James Turrell, the artist known for his work within the Light and Space movement. Photographer Arthur Drooker, couldn't agree more.

Over the course of his career, Drooker has focused on a variety of subjects. His books included *Pie Town Revisited*, in which he documented a New Mexico community made famous the photographers of the Great Depression-era Farm Security Administration, and *Conventional Wisdom*, a look at conventions held by furries and other unusual interest groups. His latest work is more abstract, a quest to capture nature's wondrous end-of-day light show.

Since 2020, Drooker has been living at Saa Ranch, a breathtakingly beautiful area on the coast of Sonoma County in Northern California, where, as he notes, he has "an unobstructed view of sea and sky." It is, he adds, "the perfect setting to photograph twilight, the time of day I find most captivating." He took advantage of that setting to create a series of images that capture the vivid colors that paint the sky with what he calls "magic and mystery" in the fleeting minutes before dusk. The work has now been collected in the book *Twilight*.



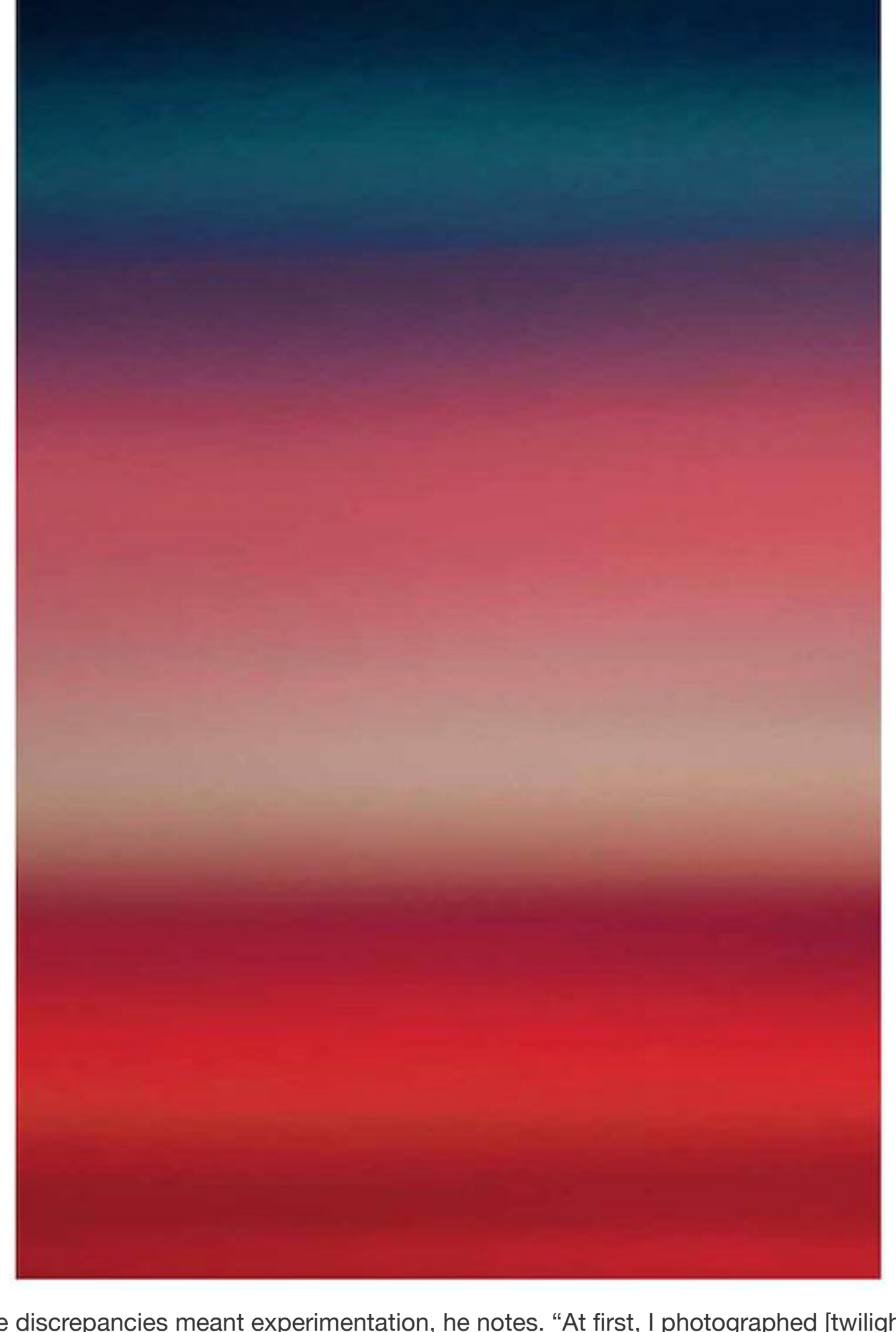
"It is literally and figuratively refers to gradual decline, so there's a feeling of melancholy associated with it. It's a time for reflection," Drooker recently told *The Guardian*, speaking of the visual sensation of twilight. In his new book, he notes that making the series "has filled me with a longing for things that, like twilight, seem so close and are just out of reach. In this liminal space, I see an old world waning and the promise of a new one dawning."



"Twilight, as I learned over the four years I spent create this series, is a challenging subject to photograph," notes Drooker. Among those challenges, of course, are weather conditions beyond of control of a photographer.

"Not every evening sky presents a twilight worth photographing," he writes. "The conditions I find work best feature a clear horizon and clouds scattered above. This combination results in memorable images with bands of color and mesmerizing transitions between them."

He also faced technical issues: He learned early on that the naked eye perceives twilight differently from how a digital camera records it. The way the camera records twilight also differs from how it looks printed in a book.



Overcoming the discrepancies meant experimentation, he notes. "At first, I photographed [twilight] in sharp focus. The results were too literal, too predictable." He then went in the opposite direction and began photographing with a softer focus.

"Looking through the viewfinder, all earthly indicators disappeared, and I entered a realm of color and light that I never knew existed," he notes.

Follow Share 12K people are following this. Be the first of your friends to follow...

Search:

Most Recent:

Tech News: DJI Debuts the Mini 4 Pro, a Tiny Drone with Advanced Obstacle Avoidance

Books: A Photo Agency on the Frontline in Ukraine

State of the Art: More Authors Authors Sue OpenAI

Spotlight: Alberto Seveso's Inky Underwater Plumes

Insight: Why You Should Be a Jack-Of-All-Trades Photographer

Let's Continue the Conversation ...

Archives:

- September 2023
- August 2023
- July 2023
- June 2023
- May 2023
- April 2023
- March 2023
- February 2023
- January 2023
- December 2022
- November 2022
- October 2022