



Thirty-Six Views of The Golden Gate Bridge, by Arthur Drooker (self-published: 2025)

Thirty-Six Views of The Golden Gate Bridge is exactly what the title says it is. Thirty-six views of what is certainly one of the world's most photographed bridges. So the challenge is obvious. How do you say something new? In an introduction, Drooker says the book was inspired by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai, "who, between 1830 and 1832, created *Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji...*" Drooker writes, "More than an act of emulation, this series is an exercise in seeing. It answers the question I asked myself: Is it possible to see the most photographed bridge in the world anew? I followed three rules: make no postcard shots; make only black and white photos to emphasize the bridge's fabled form; and lastly, make photos from unusual vantage points to place the bridge in context with its environment." Drooker photographed for more than two years and the result is a collection that will please anyone who's ever been on the bridge and fascinate those who have not. Drooker fulfills his self-imposed rules and every image does seem fresh and reorienting. There is fog, there's what appears to be a toy camera effect, the bridge sometimes is in the foreground sometimes in the background, sometimes reflected in water, and while there is the kind of recognizability that the bridge brings to every image, every image seeks to place it outside the clichés we've come to know. *Thirty-Six Views of the Golden Gate Bridge* is an intriguing and challenging project, and the result is a reimaging of place and placement that's deeply successful. One bonus: A special boxed edition includes a signed copy of the book, a print, and an actual piece of the bridge cut from the original bridge handrails.