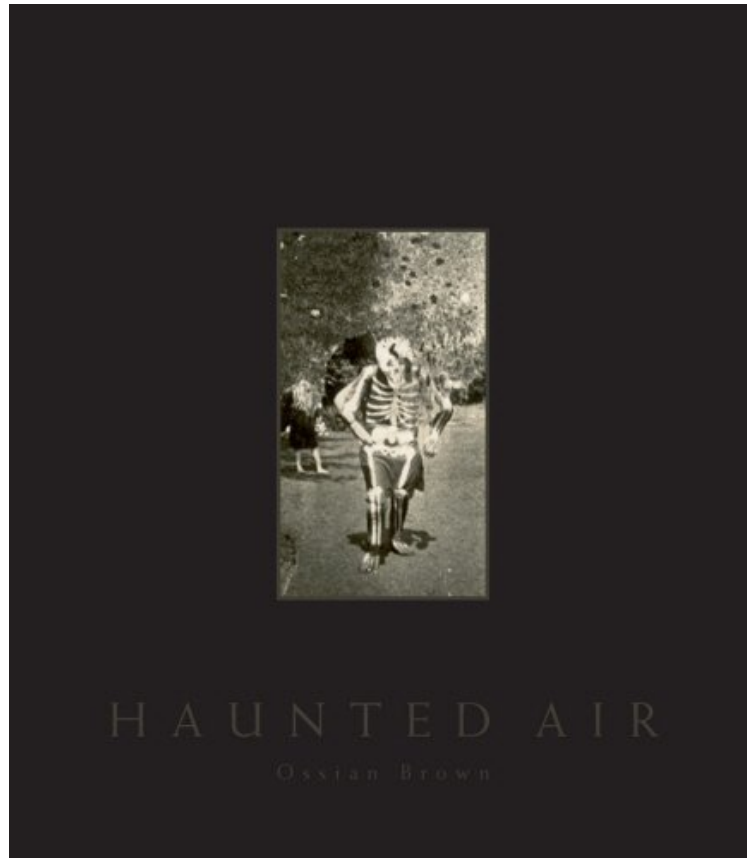


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## Haunted Air

*Ossian Brown*

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**Ossian Brown : Haunted Air** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Haunted Air:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a cute Halloween scrapbook, rather a collection of mysterious windows into macabre possibilitiesBy Mr. Wind-Up BirdTho photos work best outside of context, and certainly without "Halloween decorations on all the blank pages," as another reviewer suggested.This is a macabre art book... "found art" created by anonymous people of past times, the art being both in the documentary nature of the unprofessional imperfect snapshots made on black and white film using not the greatest cameras (but not "bad" either, just off enough to enhance the sense of mystery), and more especially in the "Otherness" created by the subjects of the snapshots.Originally the snapshots were taken by friends or family of people in costume, at a time when most Halloween costumes were homemade, and Halloween was still a time to look weird and scary, and wasn't so associated with store-bought cross-marketed super-hero or princess dress-up." The photos are here presented simply, unaltered, without explanatory text beyond the the preface and introductory notes. It is this presentation that helps them to take on a mysterious, even scary, power. The pictures are helped along if the viewer possesses a "what's happening in the shadows" sort of imagination, and the possible contexts provided by the viewer can add real value to

this collection. I don't even like to think "Halloween" when I see these old photos. I rather look at them as a window through which one can see, and imagine, a context or story or just a feeling, of something very strange, something I don't want to know about but can't look away from.. It gives me the same sort of vibe that the first season of True Detective sometimes delivered with its odd byways briefly pointed to, but left undeveloped and unexplained, something potentially horrifying because of the lack of investigation and resolution, and also of the short fiction of Thomas Ligotti... precisely because the "reveal" isn't given and enough space and ambiguity is provided to allow mysterious possibilities to hang and fester in a darker closet within the viewer's imagination, which, depending on the viewer, is an always potentially darker place than any media can reveal and explain. Anyway, it isn't a book about Halloween, the history of Halloween, a mere scrapbook, or not only these things... The homemade costumes are, outside of the Halloween context, or even within it, outright spooky, and they are presented in an uncluttered and simple way so that each image can open up a mystery for the imagination to create possible narratives for, and the imagination doesn't even need words to open up possible worlds suggested by the photos. Simply spend some time with one photo, and forget Halloween, and let your mind be guided to possible other frightening or strange places and possibilities. Also, check out Cyclobe, one of the central musical projects of Ossian Brown. That music goes very well with these photos, and hearing what Brown does with music (or part of what he does, as his involvement in music and other creative pursuits is diverse) gives one a better understanding of why this collection exists and is presented in this manner... not necessary, but does add some insight into Mr. Brown's proclivities. David Lynch's contribution is minimal, but I can certainly understand why he would love these pictures. Highly recommended for any who know of and enjoy the work of any of the names I've dropped here. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. and of great quality. The foreword by David Lynch is a ...By Lesilly delavelldThis book will not be everybody's cup of tea, for as previous reviewers have stated, the photos are very small, probably left at their original size, rather than being blown up. To me i appreciate something about that, as if I am viewing it for the first time the way the person who took the photograph might have. Despite the small size, the printing is glossy, highly detailed, and of great quality. The foreword by David Lynch is a perfect preface to flipping through this book is very emotive and slightly mysterious, i can hear him speaking it in his nasal voice. The photos are from the collection of Ossian Brown, best known as one of the full time musicians in Coil. His hobby in collecting and presenting these photos seems to have been meticulous. Some of the photos are masterworks of amateur photography, and some poorly shot and out of focus, but all with a sort of out-of-time sense of the macabre that will appeal to vintage photo collectors and fans of Halloween alike. The photos are mostly of children, which adds an air of innocence and playfulness to the eeriness. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love this book - not only as a historical reference ...By Ann-Marie RobertsI am a child of the late fifties - early sixties. Halloween at that time was scary - not the diluted, cutesy costumes and decorations we have today. I love this book - not only as a historical reference but as a remembrance of a time when the macabre was front and center for the day and people addressed their fears.

Anonymous Halloween photographs from c.1875-1955 truly haunting Americana, with a foreword by David Lynch

"for those into the history of Halloween and the common-day costumes worn, this book may be necessary in your collection." "Selectism" blog