

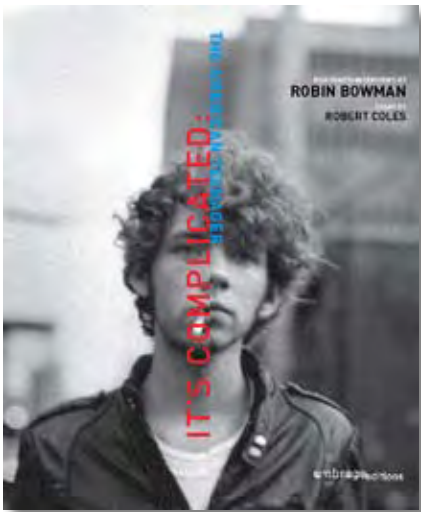
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IT'S COMPLICATED: THE AMERICAN TEENAGER

Photographs by Robin Bowman • An Umbrage Editions Book

Essay by Robert Coles, M.D.



BOOK SPECS

- 9 X 11 IN., 158 PP.
- 263 B+W PHOTOGRAPHS
- US \$40.00
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Robin Bowman's five-year journey into the heart of teenage America created a series of 419 "collaborative portraits," wherein she shares her discoveries of a generation now coming of age in America. In searing and intimate contemporary photographs, presented alongside with the young people's own voices of passion, pride, embarrassment, lust, dread, pain, anxiety, instability and rage, the book charts the coming of age of the largest generation ever in America, almost double the 1960s baby boomers.

In her exploration, she traveled 21,731 miles to photograph teens in every region of the country and every socioeconomic group: from a Texas debutante to teenage gang members in New York City; from a drag queen in Georgia to a coal miner in West Virginia. Her intimate photographs invite individuals to look more closely at how complex challenges facing a rising generation of Americans have informed individual identities. The photographs also ask us to reconcile preconceived ideas and stereotypes of teenagers with the diversity of individuals in the portraits. The 77 million teenagers' now or soon to enter high school are the Gen Y, following on another 50 million they called Gen X. This book and the traveling exhibition it accompanies are about the inside lives of these kids and how they see their reality.

ROBIN BOWMAN is a photojournalist devoted to documenting the poignant social and political issues of our age, both at home and abroad. After majoring in Anthropology at Wheaton College, Bowman studied photography at the Maine Photo Workshops. In 1984, she moved to New York City where she worked at Magnum Photos before pursuing a career as a photojournalist. Winner of a 2005 W. Eugene Smith Fellowship for "It's Complicated," Bowman currently resides in Portland, Maine.

ROBERT COLES is the renowned James Agee professor of Social Ethics at Harvard University and a child psychiatrist. His books include *The Inner Life of Children* and the *Children of Crisis* series (for which he won the Pulitzer Prize). He is a founder of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and was awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1998 by President Clinton.

"Robin Bowman captures the complexity, dignity and possibility of a new American generation. Spare, penetrating, and impatient with both stereotype and sentimentality, her portraits do more than document the surface trappings of young and particular lives. Instead, her camera seems to listen, and the faces she captures with it sing."

—Katherine Boo, McArthur fellow and Writer

"I am not sure who is more fortunate—we who meet America's teenagers through Robin Bowman's engaging portraits or these young adults who have found a deeply compassionate artist."

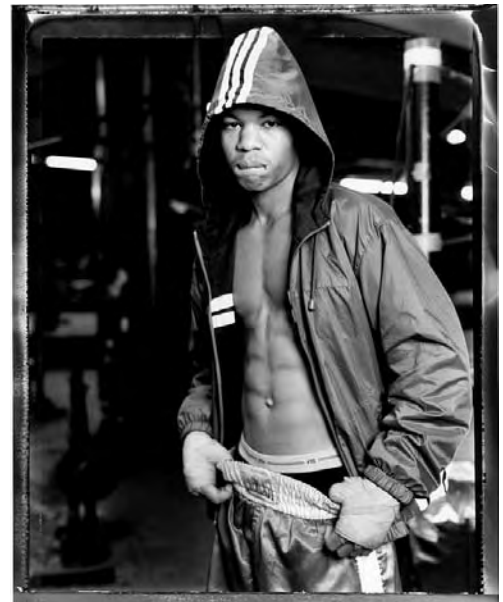
—Elisabeth Biondi, Visual Director, *The New Yorker*



AMY HELDENFELS; AUSTIN, TX; AGE 19



CAMERON NORTHUP; PENSACOLA, FL; AGE 17



SHAVARIS BUIE; BROOKLYN, NY; AGE 18



BRITTANY SKLAR; GARFIELD, NJ; AGE 14



MATT BALTHAZAR; AUSTIN, TX; AGE 16



HASNIJA ABDUL MOUMEN; BROOKLYN, NY; AGE 19



NATHANIEL GIBSON; VARNEY, WV; AGE 17



JASON KRAMER; ROCKLAND, ME; AGE 18



SCOTT GROTE; CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS; AGE 15