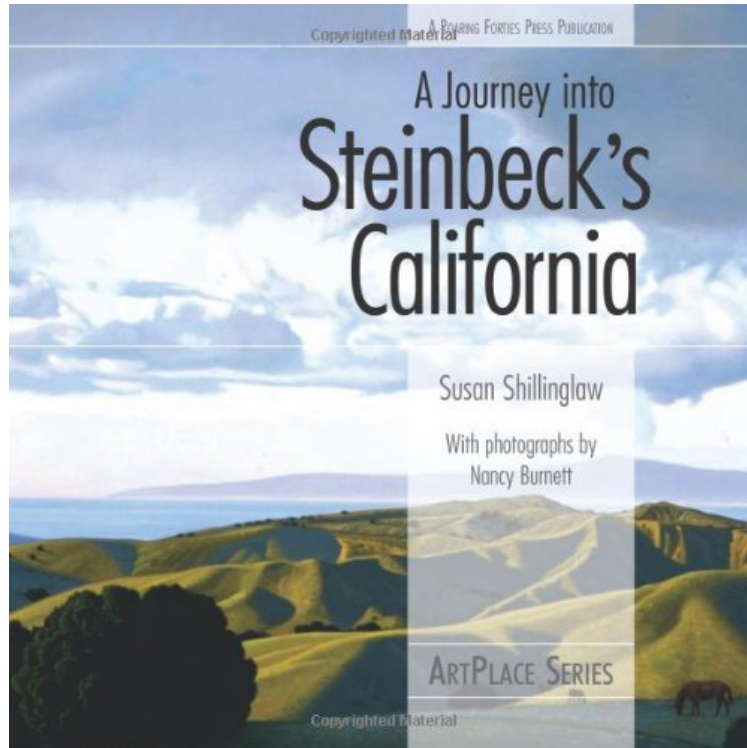


[FREE] A Journey into Steinbeck's California (ArtPlace series)

A Journey into Steinbeck's California (ArtPlace series)

Susan Shillinglaw

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Susan Shillinglaw : A Journey into Steinbeck's California (ArtPlace series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Journey into Steinbeck's California (ArtPlace series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice book
By Hikin Den I have a large collection of books about Steinbeck and his books, but this book connects his books with the places in California where he lived, worked or recreated. Nice addition to my collection.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice book recommended in a local newspaper
By Grandma Important Central CA coast history....told by an English Professor at San Jose State University. Living on the Central Coast, I checked out the articles and they ring true. A nice gift for the local and CA historian. This is not a scholarly book, rather it is very readable for the populace and covers several areas in the Salinas Valley and neighboring countryside.
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A True Gem
By Diane Rocha I fell in love with John Steinbeck's writing in 1972 when I read *The Grapes of Wrath*. It was not an assignment; it was my book of choice for an extensive camping trip. From there, I read *In Dubious Battle*, and asked my then college professor if I could write a paper, an independent study, incorporating the ideas in *The Grapes of Wrath* and *In Dubious Battle*. That led me to *East of Eden*, and my world was changed forever by one word. Timshel. Nearly two decades later, in pursuit of a teaching credential, we were assigned an oral presentation. I chose Steinbeck and his concept of "Timshel." That professor told me about *Journal of a Novel*, which, I read last summer while re-reading *E of E* for the 6th time, followed by listening to it on audiobook. Each time, I discover something new. I find that astounding. There are not too many books I can say that about. I am now in my 21st year of teaching 7th grade English,

and I teach *The Red Pony*. My students' final project for the year - their chance to show what they have learned in English that year - is "The Steinbeck Book," in which they write reader responses, write a biography of Steinbeck, plus a biography of one other Nobel Prize winning author, study a bit of California history and geography. They hand-illustrate a significant scene, nominate their favorite author for "The Steinbeck Young Adult Author Award;" the list goes on. Then I laminate the front and back covers and bind it for them, so they have their first "published" book of their own. It's a lot of work, and I am sure they are cursing me as they are working on it, but when I put their finished work in their hands, the look on their faces - their obvious sense of accomplishment is unmatched. Clearly, Steinbeck is a big part of my life, as he is for Dr. Shillinglaw. If I lived in San Jose, I would take her courses, but since I don't, I must content myself with reading her books instead. One day, in 2006, I was browsing in a bookstore, when I found Susan Shillinglaw's book, *Steinbeck's California*. I immediately bought it and tucked it away for the future. That future came in the summer of 2012, when my annual *Odyssey* added a subtitle - *Odyssey IV: Steinbeck Stalking*. I had decided, after finally reading Shillinglaw's book, that I had to visit all the places I could on that summer's *Odyssey*. I was in Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Salinas for 10 days, and couldn't fit it all in, so I went back last summer - *Odyssey V: Steinbeck Stalking Redux*. I still have not seen all the places that I want to, so this summer, I will return. Here are some of the highlights: I bought a copy of *Cannery Row on Cannery Row* at the former Wing Chong Market, which is part of the setting in the book. I walked a few yards away to a bench on the "Chicken Walk," which is directly across the street from Doc's Lab (all part of the setting, too) and read the first few chapters of *Cannery Row*. I cannot adequately describe the thrill that was for me. And I never would have been able to do that with Steinbeck's book. In it, Shillinglaw describes with accurate detail all of these places and so much more. Last summer, I went to Los Gatos and found the house where Steinbeck lived while he wrote *The Grapes of Wrath* - the house where he lived while he wrote *The Grapes of Wrath*! I did not disturb the current owners in any way; I'm sure they didn't even know I was there. I parked my car in front of the house and just breathed in the air around me; the same air that he once breathed. It was surreal. Again, I never would have been able to experience that high without guidance from this book. I see now that there is a second edition, which I now must have. Yes, it's that good.

This part art book, part biography, and part travel guide offers insight into how landscapes and townscapes influenced John Steinbeck's creative process and how, in turn, his legacy has influenced modern California. Various types of readers will appreciate the information in this guide: literary pilgrims will learn more about the state featured so prominently in Steinbeck's work, tourists can visit the same buildings that he lived in and wrote about, and historians will appreciate the engrossing perspective on daily life in early 20th-century California. Offering an entirely new perspective on Steinbeck and the people and places that he brought to life in his writing, readers will find delight in this depiction of the symbiotic relationship between an author and his favorite places.

"This amazing book explores Steinbeck's relationship with the area he both loved and hated." *Offbeat Travel*