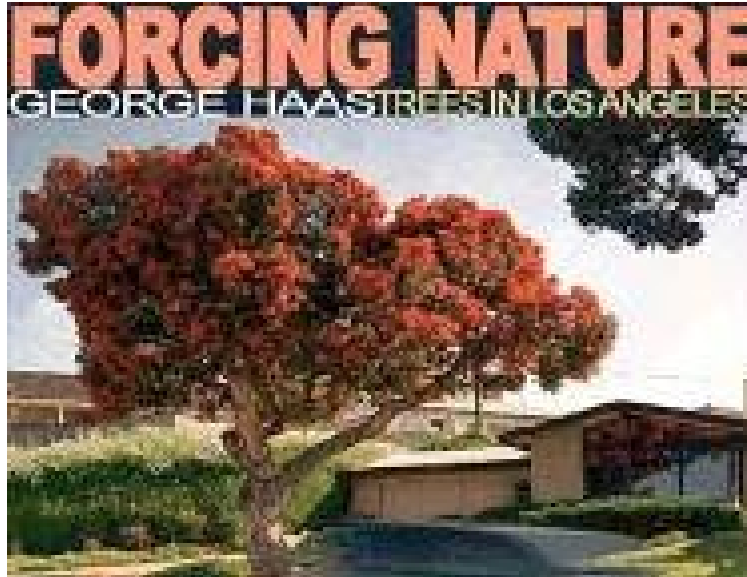


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## Forcing Nature: Tree in Los Angeles

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**From Brand: Bunker Hill Publishing Inc : Forcing Nature: Tree in Los Angeles** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forcing Nature: Tree in Los Angeles:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Pegasus165 Great coffee table book for locals. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ali K. Sabir Wow! what more can we I say :) 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A totally new way to look at Los Angeles By Charlie's Mom First of all - for this price - you cannot go wrong. It is a big beautiful hard covered book. Anyone would like it as a gift. I, myself, was given this book as a gift and am simply amazed by the work. Haas' photographs are sometimes sad, sometimes funny and always intelligent and interesting. He captures trees all over the city in color and in black and white - trees that seem miraculous given the fact that the city is so unwelcoming. As you look at a picture of a fiery red tree exploding from the sidewalk in front of a convenience store, with cars speeding by graffiti competing for attention, you cannot help but be startled and overwhelmed. We keep the book in our living room and everyone who looks at it adores it. The essays are really really good also, and it is nice to have intelligent commentary about the art. But the pictures speak eloquently for themselves.

When most people think of Los Angeles, a sprawling city steeped in diversity and multi-culturalism, trees are rarely the first things to spring to mind. But the city landscape is virtually defined by its trees--all 150 officially approved varieties. Although Angelinos take pride in their trees, they also can take them for granted. Not so for George Haas. If passers-by notice a Date Palm through the corner of their eyes, Haas is more apt to focus on it and redefine the world by shifting attention from the activity of human beings to the activity of trees. Not merely content to capture images through his lens, however, Haas as artist and philosopher bends, stretches, and blurs reality into what we perceive it to be, transforming the raw data of the world into his personal point of view. In the 80 images throughout this book, Haas has forced Nature to do his bidding. Still, Haas's trees are portraits of Los Angeles in all its complexity and quirkiness,

and his views of individual trees reveal much about their surroundings and the humans with whom they share their habitat. For Haas, L.A.--like the entire world--is a Garden of Eden, replete with bountiful flora and fauna and, of course, danger. Living in an environment molded by and for humans, each tree precariously presides in a fearful symmetry among the highways, telephone poles, and nondescript buildings. *Forcing Nature* is a testament to Haas as a photographer, but also as an architect, visionary, prankster, ecologist, and, in his method of reproduction, something of an alchemist. The reader will surely come away looking at the familiar and not merely seeing it. George Haas studied film, photography, and sculpture at Columbia College and The Art Institute of Chicago before moving to New York. His photographs have appeared in numerous exhibitions, including The School of Art Institute of Chicago, The Bergman Gallery, The Soho Photo Gallery and Club 57. His photographic and written work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Seventeen*, *Detour*, *NME*, and *Spy Magazine*. His stage work has been performed in New York, Boston and Chicago, including *No Entiendes* and *Doris and Inez Speak the Truth*. He wrote and directed the feature film *Friends and Lovers*, starring Robert Downey, Jr., Stephen Baldwin and Claudia Schiffer, distributed by Lion's Gate Films. Photographs from this series have been added to the permanent collection of American Photographers at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C and to The Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Mr. Haas currently lives in the Historic Filipinotown district of Los Angeles.

About the Author George Haas is a Los Angelan portraitist, film-maker and photographer who works in the grand tradition of American documentary and landscape photography. Arty Nelson writes about art for the LA Weekly, contributed an essay to *Beautiful Losers: Contemporary Art Street Culture* and is the author of one novel, *Technicolor Pulp*. Carolyn Peter is Associate Curator at the Hammer Museum of Los Angeles. She is author of *A Letter from Japan: The Photographs of John Swope* and has contributed essays to numerous books and catalogues including *Reading California: Art, Image, and Identity, 1900-2000*. James McCourt, author of *Mawrdew Czigowchwz*, the tale of the ultimate diva, has been for four decades a frequent to Los Angeles. He has often written on the city's history and culture, most recently in *Queer Street: The Rise and Fall of an American Culture 1447-1985*, and in *Wayfaring at Waverly in Silver Lake*, the continuing saga of Hollywood megastar Kaye Wayfaring. He lives in New York, Washington, DC and Crossmolina, County Mayo, Ireland