

COMING THIS JUNE FROM MCSWEENEY'S BOOKS

BICYCLES LOCKED TO POLES

PHOTOGRAPHS *by* JOHN GLASSIE



This mournful but pleasing collection features many of the best photographs of bicycles locked to poles ever taken.

Shot using a old-fashioned 35mm Nikon, and in many cases by waiting days for Alternate-Side-of-the-Street parking regulations to take effect, the photos here follow in the tradition of John James Audubon, Bernd and Hilla Becher, the Peterson Field Guides, and *The Observer's Book of Steam Locomotives*.

Bicycles Locked to Poles began in early 2001, when a magenta arrow—spray-painted on the sidewalk by a representative of the electrical utility—pointed directly to the sadly bent, Dali-esque wheel of a bicycle on the photographer's street. Glassie passed by every day for months, until one day it was gone. He has been documenting bicycles (bent, broken, and otherwise) locked to poles in and around his East Village neighborhood of New York ever since.

This volume presents a careful selection from Glassie's collection of over a thousand color photographs, as well as a graphical guide to present, damaged, and missing bicycle parts and a quote from Marvin Minsky's *The Society of Mind*. *Bicycles Locked to Poles* is a rare treasury for anyone interested in bikes, poles, locks, or the forgotten artifacts of the urban landscape.

John Glassie's writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Ganzfeld*, *Salon*, and *Wired*. An exhibition of Glassie's photographs will be on view at the Jen Bekman gallery in New York from May 11 to June 11. See www.jenbekman.com for more information. In June, Glassie will be touring the country with an informational slideshow illuminating the past and future of bicycles that have been locked to poles.

For more information, please contact Dorna Khazeni at press@mcsweeneys.net.