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On the Road

Vintage photographs of people and their cars The Anonymous Project

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• Lee Shulman's Midcentury Memories (978-3-8365-7584-3, Taschen) was named The Times Photography Book of the Year 2019

These vintage photographs take you on a journey across Europe and America's highways, celebrating the spirit of Kerouac's great open road. Family road trips and first cars, unplanned pit-stops and incredible vistas are rediscovered from found color slides, selected from The Anonymous Project's collection of over 800,000. The people pictured here may be unknown, but these photographs capture a familiar excitement: getting behind the wheel and setting out to see where the road takes you. After a year when people throughout the world have been home-bound, the call of adventure sounds louder than ever.

The Anonymous Project is dedicated to collecting and preserving color slides from the last 70 years from all around the world. Started in 2017 by filmmaker Lee Shulman, the collection now amounts to almost 800,000 individual slides. The chemicals on color film degrade over time and eventually fade completely, meaning that most slides do not survive beyond 50 years. The Anonymous Project seeks to preserve Kodachrome memories and create new ways of storytelling that question our place in the world today.