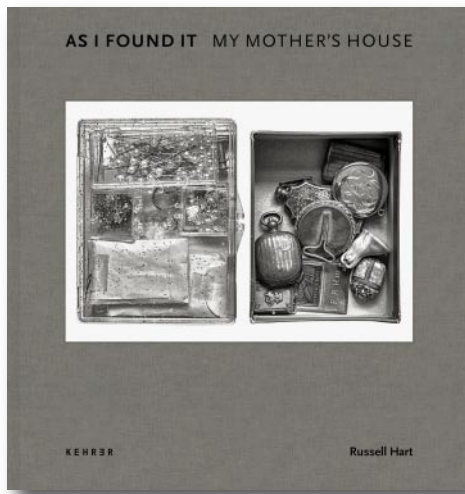


NEW RELEASE 2024



## Russell Hart

### *As I Found It. My Mother's House*

Texts by Russell Hart

Designed by Ernesto Aparicio and Kehrer Design (Laura Pecoroni)

Hardcover

27,9 x 29,2 cm

96 pages

58 duotone illustrations

English

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#### Poignant study of memory, dementia, and aging parents

American photographer, writer, and teacher Russell Hart offers a highly focused visual essay about memory and the ways in which dementia destroys identity and personal history. The book's images are also an intimate study, through idiosyncratic objects and their settings, of an aging parent.

The author created the photographs in his mother's house of over forty years after cognitive decline made it impossible for her to stay. Some of the images show the home's interiors as he emptied it out for sale. Others are close-ups of the hundreds of boxed arrangements of objects assembled by his mother, a hoarder, for both practical and sentimental purposes.

Yet the book's narrative is sparing, leaving room for viewers to find evocations of their own experience, of caring for struggling family members and preserving a lifetime's memories.

From the the introduction to *As I Found It: My Mother's House* by **Russell Hart:**

*Sometimes I envy my baby-boomer friends for having lost their parents quickly. Mine left this life piecemeal. It took my father two painful years to die from cancer, and soon after, without her husband to moor her, my mother began her long descent into profound dementia. More than ten years later, when she could no longer live alone, it fell to me to empty the rambling, creaky New England Victorian she had inhabited for over four decades. Paperwork piled high on her desk and most other available surfaces told sad tale. Starting with her latest bills, greeting cards, and copious notes to self I peeled away the layers, and at the very bottom found myself back at 2001. My mother's life, in an emotional sense and as a realm she could successfully manage, had ended the year my father died.*

(...)

*While the images in this book are documentary, they're more personal—more about my own life and family—than any I've ever made. My photographs have always looked outwards, so I'm not altogether comfortable in sharing this body of work. Yet my hope is that it connects to the experience of anyone who has dealt with the decline of parents, and to the way in which that struggle revisits and reinvents the meaning of family. I think it also addresses, by inference, dementia's destruction of identity and history. All that said, I don't want people to come to the work with too much information or too many preconceptions. I want viewers to be able to "read" the images' content not only for what might be gleaned about my mother's life and personality, but also for evocations of their own experience.*

Russell Hart is an American photographer, writer, and educator based in Virginia, whose career spans several decades. His work has been featured in prestigious galleries and museums such as the DeCordova Museum, The Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the Griffin Museum in Massachusetts. Hart has won several awards in the field of photography, photography writing, and criticism, and has served as an editor at *American Photo* magazine among other photography publications. He is also the author of influential books on photography.

Explore his work on the website [russellhartphoto.com](http://russellhartphoto.com) and on Instagram (@russellhartphoto.)

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Simona Bonanno, [press@kehrerverlag.com](mailto:press@kehrerverlag.com) or

[pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com](mailto:pr.assistance@kehrerverlag.com)

Kehrer Verlag, Mannheimer Str. 175, 69123 Heidelberg, Germany

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