

## Andy Adams and Miki Johnson's "Best of Photobooks 2009"

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"In the wake of the Best Book announcements posted on photo-eye Magazine we often encounter many more contributions to this "award" after publication. This year on the photo-eye blog, we posted Grant Willing's response to our best book list (originally posted on Humble Arts) and now [Andy Adams](#), the noteworthy founder of [Flak Photo](#), and LiveBooks and [RESOLVE](#) blogger Miki Johnson, have contributed their own response. As a follow-up to their hugely popular online discussion [The Future of the Photobook](#) (a follow-up to Joerg Colberg's post on Conscientious), Adams and Johnson have listed here their 10 most exciting photobook related projects for the 2009 year including print-on-demand books, newly founded blogs, not-for-profit publications and many other photography projects. We hope you enjoy this unique contribution to our Best Books lists."--Melanie McWhorter

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Flak Photo website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and links for 'ABOUT | GALLERY | CONNECT | BOOKMARK & SHARE | TWITTER | FACEBOOK'. Below this, there are three featured sections: 'FEATURES' with a photo of people at a table, 'WEEKEND' with a photo of a submarine, and 'IN PRINT' with a photo of tree trunks. Each section has a short text description. Below these is a large featured image of a red maple leaf on a dark background, with the text 'TODAY'S FLAK PHOTO — CONNECT ON TWITTER + FACEBOOK' and 'February 2, 2010'. To the right of the main image is a 'RECOMMENDED READING' section with two entries: 'Roadside Attractions' by Bill Vaccaro and 'Bears' by Kent Rogowski. The 'Roadside Attractions' entry includes a small thumbnail image and a detailed paragraph about the project. The 'Bears' entry includes a small thumbnail image and a paragraph about the project.

[Flak Photo.](#)

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**The Future of Photobooks: A cross-blog discussion**

It's hard to deny there are seismic shifts happening in the publishing industry right now. Between digital readers like the **Kindle**, print-on-demand publishers like **Blurb**, and the rumored **Apple tablet computer**, there are a lot of questions right now about what exactly a book will be in the future — especially photobooks.

Photo by Miki Johnson

Spurred by a feature on **FlakPhoto** highlighting the winners of **Blurb's Photography Book Now** contest, RESOLVE has teamed up with **Andy Adams**, creator of the online photography showcase, to build a month-long cross-blog discussion around the Future of Photobooks.

In order to include as many viewpoints as possible, we asked bloggers to contribute posts, shared some of their best ideas, then brought it all back to a

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## [RESOLVE](#)

For a month starting in early December and prompted by a [FlakPhoto](#) feature of [Blurb's Photography.Book.Now](#) winners, we conducted cross-blog discussion exploring the question, "What will photobooks become over the next decade?" More than 50 bloggers from every corner of the photo world [contributed posts](#) with their ideas. An equal number of people added their comments on [RESOLVE](#), especially on our three final discussions, mediated by top bloggers, examining innovative means of [creating](#), [consuming](#), and [funding](#) photobooks. One of our goals for this experiment in crowd sourcing was to pool the collective wisdom of so many thinkers to find the most exciting photobook projects going on right now. Below is a list of our favorite 10 (in no particular order) -- you can find even more fascinating projects and publications in our complete [Future of Photobooks](#) coverage.

1. Jörg Colberg ([Conscientious](#)) and Hester Keijser ([Mrs. Deane](#)) launched [The Independent Photo Book](#) in early January. The project consists of a blog where photographers can send their independently produced and distributed books and zines, along with information on how to purchase them, creating a simple online clearinghouse for visual texts -- 70 so far.
2. Although this book contains no photographs, it is nonetheless the most futuristic book idea we came across. It is a [physical book](#) that you read by taking a photo of it with your cameraphone, which converts an abstract digital image into words, which update automatically every week from a keyword search on Twitter. Get it? Just watch the video. We promise, it's cool. (via [Jonathan Worth](#))
3. [A country road. A tree.](#) Evening is a "film in progress" art project installed on a digital tablet and sold through a gallery. We're not sure if it's a book -- or even if it's physical or digital -- but it's definitely thinking outside the box. (via [Harlan Erskine](#))
4. The 13th issue of [Hamburger Eyes](#) (a San Francisco-based street photography magazine) was

[funded through the online fundraising site Kickstarter](#) last summer. The magazine met it's goal in only three days and even took in an extra \$1,000, allowing them to print a larger magazine than ever before. (via [Jin Zhu](#))

5. The collaborative online essay project [Words Without Pictures](#), a simple blog format that became something of an online phenomenon, is now available as a physical book through the print-on-demand service, [Lulu](#) and soon to be printed by [Aperture](#). (via [Larissa Leclair](#))

6. [Pictory is a beautiful new crowd-sourced, curated online magazine from former JPG](#) maven [Laura Brunow Miner](#). She works with guest editors for each issue and emphasizes personal, detailed photo captions to provide context, something sorely lacking with most of the millions of digital images we're bombarded with daily.



*From One hundred flowers*

7. Small runs of myriad unclassifiable art books became available this year through the new [Lozen Lozen Up](#) shop, the physical extension of the [LOZ blog](#) photography showcase. (via [Laurence Vecten](#))

8. The international multimedia piece [Around the World, Street Photography in B&W](#) [highlights a growing movement toward collaborative creative projects, spurred by the ease of contact provided by online communications as well as the increasingly isolated nature of creativity in a digital world.](#) (via [Francesco Gallarotti](#))

9. More collective creativity, this time with physical results, produced two of the most widely recognized photo books this year, both highlighting images from a wide variety of photographers: [Publication](#) from [Nick Turpin](#) and [Lay Flat](#) from [Shane Lavalette](#) (with guest editors [Michael Bühler-Rose](#) and [Karly Wildenhaus](#)). (via [Nick Turpin](#), [Francesco Gallarotti](#), [Bryan Formhals](#))

10. [The Obama Time Capsule](#), a book released early this year by [A Day in the Life](#) creator Rick Smolan, is a print-on-demand book documenting the historic election. The true innovation (and something we're sure to see more of) is readers can add their own images to the book and received a personalized (print-on-demand) version to not just commemorate the event but incorporate it into their own family history. (via [Jonathan Worth](#))