



DAVID MUENCH

A FAMED LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER'S FAMILY AFFAIR

The work of David Muench has inspired a generation of nature photographers, and not just by virtue of its quantity. (The prolific Muench has produced more than 40 solo books in his 40-year career.) Rather, it is the photographer's unmatched way of interpreting the landscape—with bold forms, limpid color, and a keen sense of defining light—that has influenced a legion of imitators. Muench's newest volume, the retrospective *American Portfolios* (BrownTrout Publishers, \$39.95), is a powerful reminder of that influence. The first foray into book publishing by BrownTrout, the San Francisco-based outdoor calendar specialist, the volume is divided into three parts. The first is a small sample of Muench's early black-and-white landscape photography, in the rich tonal tradition of Ansel Adams. The second section offers several decades' worth of color work, some known, some new. The third features recent color photography by Muench's son, Marc, who (in a departure from his father's purism) often peoples his landscapes with skiers, rock climbers, and campers. "I enjoy these activities myself," says the younger Muench, whose own *Ski the Rockies* (Graphic Arts Center Publishing) came out last year. "I think the only way to photograph them well is to do them yourself," he adds. The elder Muench, who has high praise for his son's photographic eye, enthusiastically describes *American Portfolios* as both "a layering of time" and "an exhibition in a book." Clearly, it's also a family affair. —RUSSELL HART

DAVID MUENCH/COURTESY BROWNTROUT PUBLISHERS

Lake Tahoe by David Muench.

