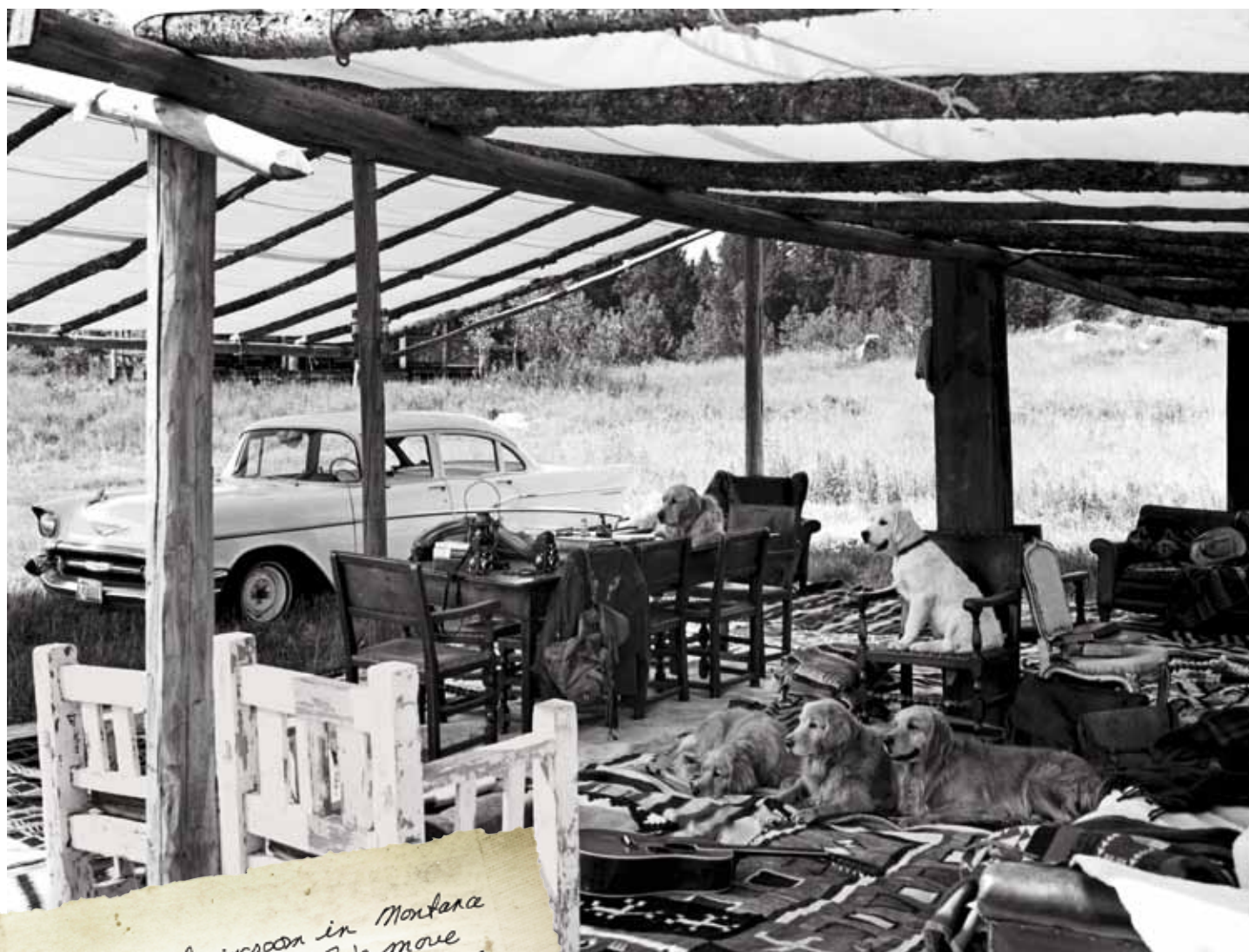


PORTFOLIO

BRUCE WEBER'S WORLD

Up close and personal with the all-American photographer.

This is our livingroom in Montana at Little Bear Ranch. We move outside in the summer, have lunch here and read and take naps after a long swim in the ice cold lakes. It is here that my favorite car—a Chevy from 1957 is parked. I've never owned a key for it but it always makes it up the mountain every June followed by horses and cattle. When I go to sleep at night this is the place I dream about.
Bruce Weber

Nothing better captures both the exuberant sophistication and childlike wonderment of photographer Bruce Weber than his series of limited-edition art and literary journals, until now pretty much only privately published. Weber, the 66-year-old master of fashion, advertising (think, perhaps most famously, of Ralph Lauren and Abercrombie & Fitch) and celebrity images (my own favorite being a black-and-white portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire in a ball gown, feeding chickens at Chatsworth), has for 12 years quietly put out a magazine—or is it an oversized book?—of imagery and words, by himself and others, that are close to his heart. Sometimes political, often literary and always visually engaging, *All-American*, Volume XII: *A Book of Lessons* is being printed this month

by teNeues as a way to expand his audience beyond art and specialty bookstores. On these pages, Weber has culled a few of his favorite images from earlier issues, as well as a never-before-published photo by John Derek. “I’ve been to so many places and knocked on so many strangers’ doors,” he says, “and the camera has always been my passport to everything.” —R.D.S.

All-American, Volume XII: A Book of Lessons *will be available November 15 at teneues.com.*

Whenever I go on location, the first thing I want to do is meet the local photographer. I go to the local haunts and see pictures on the wall, or just ask around. Ray Atkeson had done all these photos on Mount Hood, like this one he took in the mid-1950s, for probably 30 years, and few knew about him except people who lived out there. It was such a great discovery.



I'm very interested in the modern-day ethic of the cowboy. I met this kid, who had just come out of the ring at a rodeo, and I ended up going to his farm in Florida to photograph his entire family in 2008. He was pretty magical. They lived this incredible, totally American life.



This is a place I like down in Washington, D.C., called Ben's Chili Bowl, which I shot shortly after President Obama's inauguration in 2009. He goes there all the time, and it has a sign on the wall that says, "Only the Obamas eat for free." I would have loved to photograph Michelle Obama and Oprah there when I did the cover for O magazine, but we couldn't get White House approval. I love Ben's because it's so joyous—you go in, and all the chefs and the girls working there are singing and dancing to soul music.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: © ESTATE OF RAY ATKESON; © BRUCE WEBER (2)

One of the things I love most about the West is how attractive it was to independent women. Women like Mabel Dodge Luhan (pictured in this vintage print in Taos, New Mexico, around 1920), Frieda Lawrence, Georgia O'Keeffe and Dorothy Brett were able to go there, reinvent themselves and create lives that were just extraordinary. I have always been so drawn to their stories.



I've always loved the pictures, especially the nudes, that John Derek took of Bo. This one of her is in Lake Powell, Utah, 1979. They met when she was 15 and working in a surf shop. The two of them ran off to Spain because she was so young, and he taught her all about bullfighting. They lived there together until she was 18 and they could come back to California.

