

## A.R.T. - American Road Trips / Photographs by Martin Benjamin



Firenze

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Vicolo dell'Oro, 12/14 R, Firenze, Italy



### A.R.T. - American Road Trips

Photographs by Martin Benjamin

From 1972 - 1976 photographer Martin Benjamin made numerous photography excursions back and forth across the United States. In 1973 he entered 12 of those photographs in LIFE magazine's international competition *The Bicentennial Photography Contest*. 135,000 photographs were entered by over 14,000 photographers. Benjamin was awarded 1st Place in the Professional Division. Two of the judges were David Douglas Duncan and Ansel Adams.

These vintage gelatin silver prints were made on the now extinct Kodak Kodalith photographic paper. Kodalith paper was made for high contrast graphic arts applications, but found to deliver rich, luscious continuous tones if massively over-exposed and dramatically underdeveloped in the darkroom. Print developing times might be around 30 seconds or less, and it had to be accomplished by inspection, quickly stopping the development at exactly the right moment.

Martin Benjamin is the William D. Williams Professor of Visual Arts at Union College in Schenectady, New York where he has taught since 1980. Other projects by Benjamin include *The Atomic Age*, *Good Shots*, and *Rock Shots*®.