



photograph

July/August 2008 \$5

Tom Wood's *Photie Man* (Steidl) is a mid-career collection that should help spread the word on this terrific but under-recognized British photographer. Working primarily on the street and in pubs and clubs, Wood photographed the public face of New Brighton, England, across the river from Liverpool, from the late 1970s until he moved away in 2003. Like other photographers who have focused on the citizens of their own working-class town (think Mark Cohen in Wilkes Barre, PA, or Mark Goodman in Millerton, NY), Wood achieves an intimacy with his subject that's at once rude and tender. He's especially sharp when it comes to the mating rituals of young club-goers, but no matter where he is, Wood's work always feels so loose, instinctive, and dead-on he makes Martin Parr look like a formalist.

VINCE ALETTI