

ARCHIVE COLLECTIVE

A Kansas City Photography Collective.



Archive collective

[Click here for "An Interview with Bruce Wrighton" 1988](#)

For someone who had a relatively short career, Bruce Wrighton's photographs had a huge impact on me, even as someone who now rarely, if ever, makes portraits (though he didn't just photograph people). I remember begging my community college professor to bring in *Bruce Wrighton: At Home*, and I also remember my professor begging me to please wash my hands before I handled the book.

His images and process are meditative. They are incredibly well crafted, unflinching, but all the while empathetic. I think his work is so much more than a slice of life, or icons, or Americana, or whatever. What I can really take away from his photographs is this notion of searching, seeing, looking, and looking again to approach, to describe, or to discover those things about life and experience that a photograph itself will likely never fully reveal.

Here in Kansas City, the photography department of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art has recently acquired some of his work, and one image "*Tioga County Courthouse*" (1987) is already out on display.

-Megan Pobywajlo for Archive Collective