

Fifteen Years After Occupy Wall Street, Photographer Vance Petrunoff Publishes Occupy USA

New 148-page color photobook documents a journey through 18 Occupy encampments across America in 2011-2012.

SOFIA, Bulgaria - August 2026

Fifteen years after Occupy Wall Street transformed Zuccotti Park in Lower Manhattan into the birthplace of a nationwide protest movement, Bulgarian-American photographer Vance Petrunoff has published *Occupy USA*, a 148-page photographic journey through Occupy encampments across the United States.

Published in softcover through Blurb, the new print edition brings together photographs made as Petrunoff traveled from New York, Chicago, and Seattle to Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, Sonoma, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Davis, Honolulu, and other communities.

Rather than concentrating primarily on confrontations between protesters and police, Petrunoff turned his camera toward the people and the everyday life developing inside the camps: handmade signs, tents, kitchens, libraries, meetings, music, conversations, and the temporary communities created in public spaces.

"I did not set out to document history," Petrunoff says. "I went to Zuccotti Park because I wanted to see for myself what was happening. I walked in with my camera and had no idea that I was beginning a journey."

As that journey continued, Petrunoff began making prints of photographs taken at camps he had already visited and carrying them to the next locations. The prints were taped up, laid on the ground, displayed informally, or passed from hand to hand, allowing people in one city to see the faces, signs, and daily life of Occupy communities hundreds or thousands of miles away.

"Without planning it, I had created a kind of visual chain," Petrunoff says. "The photographs were no longer only a record of the places I had visited. They were traveling with me and becoming part of the experience."

The work also carried a personal meaning for the photographer. Born in Sofia, Petrunoff left communist Bulgaria in 1985 and came to the United States seeking political asylum and a life in a free society. Twenty-six years later, he found himself photographing Americans gathering openly in public spaces to challenge political and economic institutions.

The complete documentary archive is organized chronologically at occupywallstreetphotos.org, where each of the 18 photographed encampments links directly to its full Flickr album. The site preserves thousands of images for journalists, educators, researchers, curators, and the public.



A New Print Edition and a Longer Publication History

The 2026 Blurb softcover is an expanded, physical photobook designed to carry the archive into libraries, classrooms, collections, and exhibitions. It follows the original digital edition of Occupy USA, published for the iPad by FotoEvidence in 2013 with 142 color photographs. Together, the two editions trace more than a decade of work preserving and presenting this photographic record.

Most Occupy encampments disappeared within months. The tents came down, the signs were removed, and the parks and plazas returned to everyday use. The photographs remained. The new book revisits the movement at a moment of historical distance, preserving not only protest but also the human texture of the communities that formed around it.

"The book is not an attempt to explain the Occupy movement or decide what it ultimately accomplished," Petrunoff says. "It is a record of what I encountered as I traveled from camp to camp. This is what I saw. This is the journey."

The project will also be presented at ONE Gallery in Sofia, Bulgaria, September 1-15, 2026, coinciding with the fifteenth anniversary of the movement. An earlier solo exhibition was held at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco on September 18, 2012.

Occupy USA

PRINT EDITION, 2026 | 148 PAGES | 10 x 8 INCHES | COLOR | SOFTCOVER

Blurb: www.blurb.com/b/12969468-occupy-usa

Original digital edition, 2013: books.apple.com/us/book/occupy-usa/id687690426

About Vance Petrunoff

Vance Petrunoff is a Bulgarian-American documentary photographer whose work explores people, place, and moments of social change. Born in Sofia, Bulgaria, he left the country in 1985 and eventually made his home in the United States. His long-term documentary work includes an extensive photographic record of the Occupy movement created while traveling from camp to camp across the United States in 2011-2012.

Media Contact

Vance Petrunoff

Photographer and author of Occupy USA

Email: vpetrunoff@me.com

Website: occupywallstreetphotos.org

Flickr archive: [flickr.com/photos/occupywallstreetphotos/albums/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/occupywallstreetphotos/albums/)

High-resolution photographs, book-cover images, interviews, and additional information are available for editorial use upon request.