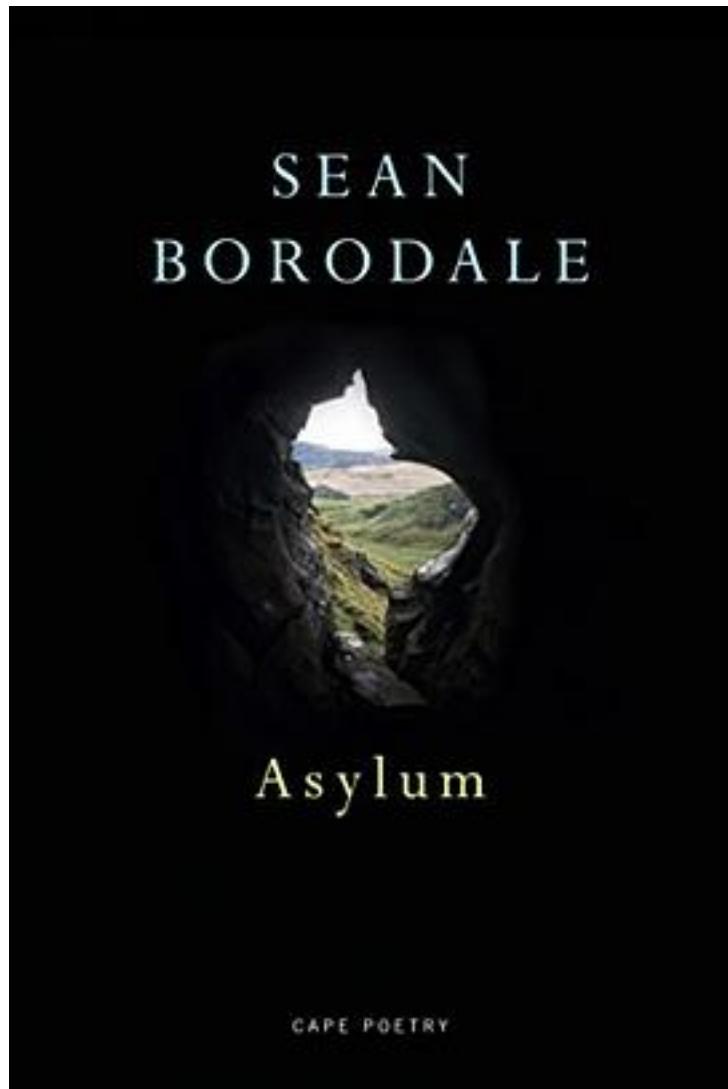


# Asylum



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For more than half the nation's history, vast mental hospitals were a prominent feature of the American landscape. From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth, over 250 institutions for the insane were built throughout the United States; by 1948, they housed more than a half million patients. The blueprint for these hospitals was set by Pennsylvania hospital superintendent Thomas Story Kirkbride: a central administration building flanked symmetrically by pavilions and surrounded by lavish grounds with pastoral vistas. Kirkbride and others believed that well-designed buildings and grounds, a peaceful environment, a regimen of fresh air, and places for work, exercise, and cultural activities would heal mental illness. But in the second half of the twentieth century, after the introduction of psychotropic drugs and policy shifts toward community-based care, patient populations declined dramatically, leaving many of these beautiful, massive buildings--and the patients who lived in them--neglected and abandoned. Architect and photographer Christopher Payne spent six years documenting the decay of state mental hospitals like these, visiting seventy institutions in thirty states. Through his lens we see splendid, palatial exteriors (some designed by such prominent architects as H. H. Richardson and Samuel Sloan) and crumbling interiors--chairs stacked against walls with peeling paint in a grand hallway; brightly colored toothbrushes still hanging on a rack; stacks of suitcases, never packed for the trip home. Accompanying Payne's striking and powerful photographs is an essay by Oliver Sacks (who described his own experience working at a state mental hospital in his book *Awakenings*). Sacks pays tribute to Payne's photographs and to the lives once lived in these places, "where one could be both mad and safe."

作者介绍:

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标签

photography

美國

攝影集

摄影

christopher\_payne

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Photo

Art

## 评论

老式精神病院里面有生活的一切，包括死亡——唯独缺了“新生命的诞生”；废弃建筑是遗忘记忆之墓碑。

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## 书评

身为建筑师的Christopher

Payne一直从事建筑摄影，但是他选择拍摄的建筑有很浓郁的人文情怀，这本书记录了坐落在美国不同城镇里被遗弃的精神疗养院。图片略显诡异，但还是充满极具美感的吸引力。照片一半是黑白一半是彩色。彩色照片系列有一种粉彩，阳光曝晒以后的颜料褪色的色...

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