

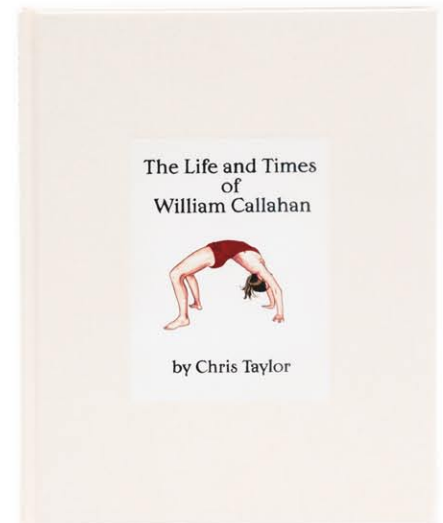
The Life and Times of William Callahan

by Chris Taylor

In an era of networked immediacy, when everything is both obvious and ephemeral, the concept of myth in celebrity culture seems to have been replaced by buzz. Bill Callahan, one of the great songwriters of his generation, nevertheless, remains a mythic figure.

In 2008, Chris Taylor sent an unsolicited email to record label Drag City with a proposal: a book of photographs of and around Bill Callahan. Taylor found himself driving 658 miles east, from his home in Victoria, B.C. to meet Callahan and discuss the idea: that he would travel to Callahan's home in Austin, TX, and photograph him every other day for a month. Along the drive, Taylor shot Polaroids—one of which, a picture of horses in the mist, was chosen as the cover for Callahan's album *Sometimes I Wish We Were an Eagle*.

A book of photos titled *The Life and Times of William Callahan* is the result of his time in Austin, and is as much a portrait of Callahan as any of Callahan's songs. In these pictures, the surfaces of things are still and separate, crisp and peaceful in their individuality. Shirts, walls, and trees seem to have faces, but as with people, their depths and secrets remain hidden.



Chris Taylor (b. 1978) lives and works in Victoria, B.C. His photographs have been featured in several exhibitions including The Banff Centre, Gallerie Mycroft in Paris and Alvarez Bravo Centre in Oaxaca. His pictures have also been published in The New York Times, Vice Magazine, Steidl (GER) and Twelve Books (Japan). *The Life and Times of William Callahan* is his first artist monograph. www.winnersblues.com