

Educational Programming for Jock Sturges.

“He photographs beauty, the light, and he does this in such a way that it almost hurts.”

Jock Sturges - international photographer

Artist Lecture and Image Presentation: **Thursday, March 8th, at 7 PM**

Fannin Performance Hall, Richland College, Dallas



Topics to discuss:

Cultural context and local perceptions

Objective and Subjective notions of beauty

Historical role of the figure in art and portraiture

Dignity and acceptance of the human body

Individuality versus the universality of all peoples.

Introduction to Jock Sturges:

Sturges is an internationally renowned and critically acclaimed photographer. His work is primarily based around adolescent portraiture that has evolved as a refined aesthetic focused on beauty, character, and strength in innocence. Sturges graduated with a BFA in Perceptual Psychology and Photography from Marlboro College and received an MFA in photography from the San Francisco Art Institute. He primarily works with a large format 8x10-inch view camera.

Working from Northern California and France, Sturges art develops from long term relationships with families that he frequently visits and photographs. Historically and culturally, the figure in art has been a primary way to search and convey beauty and moral order. Sturges further refines his place within this continuum through his technically superb photography and striking compositions.

Working from cultures with an open stance on nudity, the images chronicle a series of personal friends and long term acquaintances, presenting them in transitional states of maturity as strong, dignified, and graceful figures. The images contain a degree of timelessness, often devoid of modern trappings to better focus on the character and nature of the models.

(information derived from galleries, PR, and Wikipedia)

Commentary on Sturges Photography

“When is a work of art beautiful? Friedrich Schiller wrote: “Art is beautiful when it depicts nature freely” This means that a work of art should not be an exact replica of the natural object, but must be enriched by the creative imagination of the artist... There are even some true masterpieces, in which there is a glimpse of a heavenly glow in the lighting, and the model seems to melt into the landscape. In these pictures, the natural object itself is already beautiful and finds completion in the artistic expression of the photographer. Therefore, when we think of beauty, these are the photographs, which come to mind. They must not, however, be mistaken for depictions of perfection or some other form of popular beauty... Sturges’ work does not depict beauty alone, but captures those rare moments of grace and poise, as well.”

Daniela Krien

<http://www.amadelio.com/vlog/2008/01/10/vlog-videoblog-jock-sturges-line-of-beauty-and-grace/>

Further reading on beauty:

First, each culture develops its own system and notions of beauty. In the West philosophers have explored the topic endlessly: Immanuel Kant’s idea is that a “rose” is a universal object of beauty that can be agreed upon and as such means there is a base for the idea of beauty, followed up by Friedrich Schiller who states that beauty is a union of rationality and sensuality. Schopenhauer claims that beauty must be non-political and removed from rational concerns and is echoed by Oscar Wilde’s “beauty for beauty’s sake.” More recently Theodor Adorno thought aesthetics could not proceed without confronting the commodification of art and aesthetic experience in culture and is refuted by Arthur Danto claiming that the concept of beauty alters over time and is therefore only one possible goal of art.

(A brief synopsis can be found under Modern Aesthetics on Wikipedia)

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