

(NOTES ON) POLITICS, THEORY & PHOTOGRAPHY

“WHAT WE NEED IS A CRITIQUE OF VISUAL CULTURE THAT IS ALERT TO THE POWER OF IMAGES FOR GOOD AND EVIL AND THAT IS CAPABLE OF DISCRIMINATING THE VARIETY AND HISTORICAL SPECIFICITY OF THEIR USES.” - W.J.T. MITCHELL. PICTURE THEORY (1994).

11 MARCH 2009

Natura ~ Pfahl Progeny



Deer April 16, 2005 ~ Photograph © Forest McMullin.



WHO? ME?

I am a political theorist with neither experience as, nor any real aspiration to be, a photographer. My interest is in the task Mitchell identifies in the passage I quote in the header. It remains, in my estimation, woefully neglected.

NEW COMMENTS POLICY ~

Unfortunately, I find it necessary to moderate comments on this blog.

I now no longer publish anonymous comments except in rare circumstances and only then at my sole discretion.

If you are interested in why I have implemented these policies, please scroll to the very, very bottom of the sidebar.

Revised ~ 21 August 2008

SUPPORT ABC NO RIO BUILDING FUND - A VERY WORTHY OUTFIT!



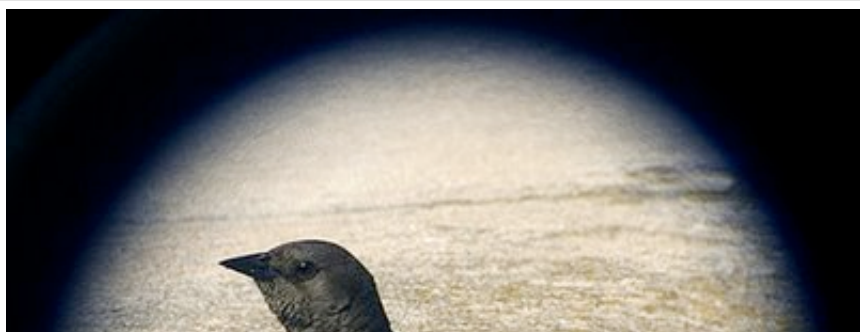
Thailand Lagoon 1, 2001 ~ Photograph © Stuart Rome.



UGA Extension Bamboo Farm ~ Photograph © Steve Mosch



Desertscape, Death Valley, California, 1991
~ Photograph © Marilyn Bridges.



About ABC NO RIO



THIS IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT BLOG
~ I RUN NO COMMERCIAL
ADVERTS

Now that the FTC has promulgated rules requiring full disclosure of any possible conflicts of interest, I feel obliged to note that I generally write about photography, books, recordings, and so on that I have paid for myself; if I ever do receive 'complimentary' copies of such works and then write about them, I will state that in the post. Having said *that*, my judgments about particular publications, (journalistic, artistic, or musical) works, or views are just that - *judgements* - if you take what I say as an "endorsement," that is your interpretation and you can act on it (or not) as you please. I'd say "*caveat emptor!*" but you are not actually buying anything here, so it is hard to see any basis for complaint.

REAL LIFE

"The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera." ~ Dorothea Lange





Female Blackbird ~ Photograph © Jeannie Pearce.

"Photography is nothing - it's life that interests me." ~ Henri Cartier-Bresson

"Photos always seem to exist as sort of stuffy, unnecessary antiques that we put in a drawer — unless we take them out, put them in current dialogue, and give them relevance." ~ Mark Klett

"The job of the photographer, in my view, is not to catalogue indisputable fact but to try to be coherent about intuition and hope. This is not to say that he is unconcerned with the truth." ~ Robert Adams

"Light, then, is indeed a wonderful instrument ..." ~ Mark Rothko

I made it into town today and stopped in to see the *Natura* exhibition at Rochester Contemporary that I mentioned yesterday. It really is quite good and I recommend a visit before the show closes March 22nd. John Pfahl's "Scrolls" are quietly astounding. But the work of his students is uniformly impressive too. The show includes work by 15 of his students (the complete list appears in my earlier post) but the five whose work I've lifted here stood out as especially compelling.

Labels: John Pfahl, Local Event

POSTED BY JIM JOHNSON AT 3/11/2009 05:02:00 PM 0 COMMENTS LINKS TO THIS POST 

10 MARCH 2009

Local Exhibition ~ *Natura: A Maker/Mentor Exhibition*

Natura: A Maker/Mentor Exhibition with John Pfahl

John Pfahl, Marilyn Bridges, Barbara Bosworth, Dean Chamberlain, Grey Crawford, Alida Fish, Richard Gray, Paul Lange, Silvia Lizama, Forest McMullin, Steve Mosch, Judy Natal, Jeannie Pearce, Stuart Rome, Alison Rossiter, Jane Wattenberg.

The artists featured in *Natura* studied with renowned photographic artist and educator John Pfahl during his tenure as professor in the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences at Rochester Institute of Technology. *Natura*



ACORN

Alternatives for Battered Women (Rochester)

American Rights at Work

Amnesty International

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights

Bread & Roses Cultural Project

Breakthrough Institute

Center for Constitutional Rights

Center for Democracy & Technology

Center for Reproductive Rights

Center on Wrongful Convictions

Coalition of Immokalee Workers

Code Pink

CPJ - Committee to Protect Journalists

Critical Mass

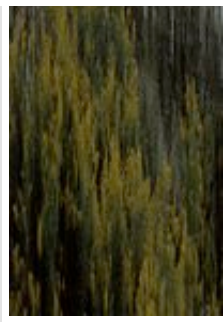
Cultural Survival

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins

is co-curated by John Pfahl and Therese Mulligan and is organized in partnership with RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

February 6 - March 22, 2009 at Rochester Contemporary Art Center-137 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604.


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I have not seen this exhibition but hope to do so this week. It is the second exhibition this year in Rochester that sheds light on the rich local tradition of influential teachers/makers of photography. I wrote about the other - *On the Edge of Clear Meaning* - a retrospective on the career of John Wood, [here](#) and [here](#).

The photograph I've lifted here is *Autumn Lagoon*, 2006 © John Pfahl.

Labels: John Pfahl, Landscape, Local Event

POSTED BY JIM JOHNSON AT 3/10/2009 06:49:00 AM 0 COMMENTS [LINKS TO THIS POST](#) 

Sans Frontières  
Emergency Contraception  
Fair Trade Clothing Coop (Toronto)  
Food Not Bombs  
Free the Slaves  
Highlander Research & Education Center  
Homeboy Industries  
Human Rights Watch  
International Campaign to Ban Landmines  
Iraq Body Count  
Lawyers Without Borders  
Mines & Communities Website  
National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women  
National Lawyers Guild  
National Network of Abortion Funds  
No Sweat - 100% Union Made Apparel  
Poets Against the War  
Reporters Without Borders/  
Reporters Sans Frontières/  
Reporteros sin Fronteras  
Rights Exposure Project  
Ruckus Society  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
United for a Fair Economy  
Women in Black

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PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
REPORT ON TORTURE AS PUBLIC  
POLICY IN THE U.S.