

DOCUMENTARY SURREAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Hi Alessandro,

I am a journalist working on a MFA in photography in the US and would like to write about your work in a research paper. The paper compares early and contemporary documentary surrealist photography. I found your book, "Vision from Another World", in our library and found your work to be beautifully surreal.

Would you mind answering a few of questions for me, in regards to this book? If not, here they are:

Do you think of your work as surreal? Why or why not?
Do you believe in staging photographs? Why or why not?
What are you looking for when you are out shooting on the street?
Do you find everyday reality surreal? Why or what not?

I would like to say something educated about your work, so it would be very helpful to have your input. I will send you a copy of the paper once it is written. I do hope to hear from you soon!

Many thanks,

Rachel

Do you think of your work as surreal? Why or why not?

First of all I should clarify the meaning of the word "surreal". In Europe the influence of the surrealist movement has strengthened the artistic component and bizarre use of the word sometimes removing it from the pure meaning of what is beyond reality "what exceeds the size of real or is able to evoke images and ideas of fantastic , revealing the deeper side of human psyche, a surreal impression, a surreal atmosphere.

In Italy, we use surreal to mean an event or behavior that comes out from the canons of what we know as real ..

With the homologation of styles and aesthetics also having created countless niches and possible identities, the surreal is what it is far from us, but when it belongs to art is perceived in everyday life we try to minimize the space, becomes something strange, appears for a moment in a place far from where we are.

While this use of understandable language facilitates communication, secondly these meaning about sense of life, it's limit the space of freedom that words allow in our life.

I don't think my work as surreal.

I don't think there are surreal worlds. I think there are levels of reality interpretation's that make more evident the presence of the surreal in the slide of time and gestures .. Although I still think that the necessity of a definition serves us a knowledge bank.

I believe this approach was influenced from my Asia years, led me to feel language in a different way.

If there are a surreal elements in my pictures, this is not sought.

I try to built my photographs in a small part before they achieve the reality, I have always been attracted fro, the unconscious gestures of human beings, I'm looking obsessively.

Do you believe in staging photographs? Why or why not?

I'm not posing myself the question to believe or not believe, it depends who makes the pictures and how .. In most cases the built photographs don't touch my personal test of time, they are non able to enter in my imagination. Fortunately, there are cases of talented photographers who make photographs that look exceptional and marvelous.

What are you looking for when you are out shooting on the street?

In part I had already answered your question when I talked about gestures. They introduce what I really care about the life through photographs. Basically behind my dreams there is the desire to give meaning at life and passion flowing .. I've never been too much interested in specific topics, I always tried the thread that might tie the different moments of reality, the signs of human presence, the others life connected with my own. I'm happy to move from architectural photography to my bed photos to give you an example, in this I feel myself more close to the British and American culture than European. I find them more free and less tied with the "engage" concept as the French say. Everything is engage for me, because it is our life. In 2003 when I began to photograph in color the idea to leave me the first 10 years of photographs around the world to understand if my purpose would be possible, amused me but still I don't know if I have succeeded and if I am succeeding.

The negatives book are there waiting with patients .. What I know is that the result of my work over the past 2 years has taken other notes that do not judge yet.

Now I'm struggling with scans of the last 2 projects. I hope they will be online in some months and after this I would end the creation of my Tokyo book.

Do you find everyday reality surreal? Why or what not?

No, fortunately not everyday my level of perception is on the real, a healthy dose of laziness saves me .. I had the good fortune to turn off the button when I really needed :-)