



Thom Kotis
A Back Road to the Sea
5 April - 3 May, 2009

Artist statement

My photographic practise is an extension of how I choose to live my life. Simplicity, truth, freedom: these three words form the basic foundation of my existence and, as such, are inextricably linked to my art. There is no separation.

Living is my art and clearing my mind is the process. I do not think about the photographs I am making but simply photograph when the mood takes me. Conscious thought requires language, and language falls short in an expression of true nature. I wish to share a slice of experience. My work is not commentary; I do not present a text for analysis but rather a glimpse from my own journey of personal cultivation.

My photographs are not an end in themselves but a product of my process. I make trips for personal development, and the resultant travel sketches are a document of my journey. The trips I make are exercises in discipline and awareness. By removing myself from the mundane distractions of my modern life, I can practice just being. I plan very little, and romantically, just go with the flow, in the tradition of wandering poets of the past.

Restricted process keeps creative decisions to a minimum, and allows me to respond intuitively rather than intelligently. My old twin lens reflex camera has a fixed lens, and I carry only one type of black and white film. The simplicity of this process reflects my general approach to life and art.

Through clarity and awareness of the moment I attempt to free myself from internal chatter, and intuitively present what is, free from judgment or context.

Biography

Thom Kotis (1975) Lives and works in Brisbane. He finished his Bachelor of Photography with Honours degree from Queensland College of Art, Griffith Univeristy in 2008. He has worked within film and television and has exhibited in Australia since 2004.

Resources

Related artists and influences: Jacques Henri Lartigue (France), William Eggleston (USA)

Queensland Centre for Photography



Amanda Gallagher, Public Programs

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