

JACK PERNO FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Inspiration

An Endangered Species: Polaroid 809

As digital photography continues to stampede into our lives, what once was considered instant has become an eternity. Waiting 60-90 seconds for the "instant film" to process, for many, if not most is fading memory. The future of one of the most beautiful media still available to photographers is still uncertain, however I believe that there is cause for concern. My work with 809 is structured with encrypted imagery through emulsion lifting. I begin with an idea that offers variable destinations throughout the post-visualization process.

Shooting each original photograph with an 8 x 10 Sinar large format camera, Jack Perno works with a limited amount of prints. Emulsion lifting is a process performed by scalding the emulsion from its backing and transferring it to an alternate substrate of 300lb. Fabriano soft press watercolor paper. Only one original is created with 2-3 prints constructed from each theme. No two are alike.

Perno uses an underlying theme of beauty encrypted into the portraits combined with an absence of comfortable realism. By structuring ideas and creating imagined or mythical creatures, people, or story lines, his material provides multiple interpretations. The questionable future of a medium that Perno has embraced for decades led him to the idea of endangered species. Emerging from this he creates non-existent characters by stretching and twisting the images with his hands and using water as the primary ingredient to manipulate the process. This adds an unknown factor of the final result regardless of any pre-visualization of the artist. The liquid becomes a controllable chaos.

Perno uses all types of people with his Polaroid's. All of my work is done "in camera" and on the film. Perno uses only the traditional technique of camera work and development. Each Polaroid emulsion lift is 100% pure analog. He may choose one entire sheet of film or as many as 13 different pieces of different Polaroid to hand manipulate and create one final piece. By using the 8 x 10 as an original which creates large format 3' x 4' prints, he offers the viewer incredible details into the image that can't be seen in the original format.

Perno's concern is that one day the demand for the peel apart large format film that he embraces will unfortunately follow in the footsteps of other lost art forms. Until then, he continues to create emulsion lifts finding new forms within the old.

Technique

The original image is taken using the 8 x 10 Sinar view camera, using Polaroid 809 Color film. After drying, the Polaroid is scalded in water until the emulsion begins to lift off the original backing material. It is then transferred to an alternate paper substrate and manipulated by Jack Perno's hands. The original is scanned and printed in a limited edition. The pigment used in the print will not fade or deteriorate for 200 – 300 years. The paper stock is archival, museum grade 360 – grade stock.

Education

Kansas City Art Institute, Bachelor of Fine Art

Exhibitions

Wiford Gallery - Santa Fe, New Mexico

Frame Fiets Gallery - Amsterdam, Netherlands – November 2004 - February 2005

La Seine des Arts Gallery - Paris, France – June - October 2004

Skylight Gallery – Chicago, Illinois – September - November 2002

Awards

5th International Polaroid Awards 2004: 2 Awards

Elena Seated and Dior Cape

Collections

Polaroid Permanent Collection

Museum of Contemporary Art Permanent Collection

Mr. And Mrs. John Reed

Mr. And Mrs. David Ruttenberg

Mr. Peter Townshend