

Wandering into the Unconscious

I met and became a close friend of Seth David Rubin when he was a grad student in photography. I was very amazed by the emotional depth I sensed in his photographs. I felt that he had a naïve clarity of seeing much like the child prodigy Jacques Lartigue. They both have a zen-like eye that intuitively sees the whole spatial field.

Seth is a conceptual artist. Like Lartigue, he loves to explore and play with new materials that he magically transforms. I can feel his excitement in the work very strongly as he pushes in new directions. He uses mud, flour, snow, and glass as both subject and ground. I love the beauty and poetry that he can capture in the results.

He is very conscious of transforming the material matter that he is using but less interested in the psychological underworld within the wholeness he has created. That is left up to the viewer. My deepest enjoyment and bewilderment of the work comes by entering its space and wandering into the unconscious as I would the visions of a Bosch, a Redon, or a Jess. I come away from these encounters thrilled by endless, timeless, changing and unknowable special seeings. It is a refreshing acceptance of the mysterious power of the arts.

John O'Reilly September 2020