

Alec Soth's Archived Blog

November 3, 2006

William Lamson

Filed under: [artists](#) — alecsothblog @ 9:40 pm

I'm going to be honest. I don't want to like William Lamson's work. He's younger than me (I want to be younger). He went to Bard (I wish I'd gone to Bard). He lives in Brooklyn (I don't know if I want to live there, but it sounds cool). But I can't resist it anymore. He is good. Look at his new video work. He is very good. Judge for yourself [here](#). (I'll feel better if you all say he is terrible).

10 Comments

1. Hmm, not sure. Looks rather like one of those "do something once, and it kind of sucks; do it 54 times and it looks kind of cool" type ideas.

Come the revolution, the Bechers will be first up against the wall.

Comment by [guybatey](#) — November 4, 2006 @ [3:49 am](#)

2. There's quite bit of humour there. a few of the videos works made me chuckle, especialy the the muybridge horse re enactment.

me in america I really like.engaging and thought provoking. one image alone has some hmm factor, but as a whole it's brilliant and playful. seems like a pastich of stephen shores american surfaces with the photographer thrust awkwardly amdist the work adding an unusual dimension.

Comment by Jim — November 4, 2006 @ [10:47 am](#)

3. Well it needs to be said that Brooklyn is a cool place to live...if you are asking.

Comment by [Robert Wright](#) — November 4, 2006 @ [11:38 am](#)

4. Sorry to have to let you down.....he is good.....The video work was some of the more interesting I have seen in a while! My favorite had to be the airplane/people in white suits night video pieces. Such a simple idea but yet so brilliant. The cherry on top is that they are for the most part, quite humorous.

Comment by [Chris Bennett](#) — November 4, 2006 @ [8:35 pm](#)

5. I don't know Alec, even though you are two years older than me, perhaps we can form a photographic retirement club. Say Boca Raton? These youngins' are gonna be gunning for us old fogeys anyway, let's just retire early.

Comment by [Brian Ulrich](#) — November 5, 2006 @ [1:36 am](#)

6. Sorry Alec, now I like his work too. At least what I have seen of his photography. "Encounters" is great.

Comment by [Paul Christensen](#) — November 5, 2006 @ [11:16 am](#)

7. Sorry Brian, you can't be in my club. Two years is a big deal. I'm a senior, you are a sophmore. Lamson is in 6th grade.

Comment by [Alec Soth](#) — November 5, 2006 @ [11:23 am](#)

8. I don't know you'll need someone to help get from the golf course to the pool at some point. I'd reconsider...

PS> Will Lamson rules! I saw his work and met him in Santa Fe.

Comment by [Brian Ulrich](#) — November 5, 2006 @ [7:31 pm](#)

9. He's a talented guy, but you'd never know it from his personal stuff, which is just way too clever. Much of the commissioned work, on the other hand, is simply beautiful.

The distinction between them takes us back, I think, to the Myers article, as well as to Tod Papageorge's comment about "emotionally synthetic" photography.

I was reminded of both, the other day, looking at Melanie Pullen's show at the Wirtz Gallery in San Francisco. Have you seen it? Maybe I'm just getting old, but I left there feeling very tired.

Comment by [George LeChat](#) — November 6, 2006 @ [1:32 pm](#)

10. I visited his website and viewed a few of the works in the collection. I did this because I subscribe to the Wholphin DVD series and he is featured in issue #5. I wanted to see more of his stuff because I wanted to see what was so freakin' awesome about Mr. Lamson that they would include the piece that they did. I was disappointed. He's OK. But c'mon man, what was that in Wholphin #5 !?! I sat in front of the TV asking "What?! Is that it? That can't possibly be the whole thing!" But no, that was the entire clip. I was hoping that it was an excerpt or something from some larger work. I did not investigate that matter (I only got the DVD the night before). I read that a Japanese observer said that he produced "nonsense films". I guess that's what it is. Or at least that's what the Wholphin people decided to include. He has better stuff (not great but better) so wtf?! Bottom line if you're going to throw a giant paper airplane off of a mesa shot from a camera so far away that you can't even see what the damn thing is, and then you don't even pan the camera to see where the thing goes...PLEASE don't include it in a video magazine for unseen films...this is not unseen it's just nonsense...it's not separated from somebody's video blog that no one saw either.

Comment by [Donald Finney](#) — April 9, 2008 @ [8:39 pm](#)