

# Alec Soth's Archived Blog

October 29, 2006

## Marden-mania at the Times

Filed under: [goof,media](#) — alecsothblog @ 4:05 pm

Dear New York Times editorial staff, I enjoyed reading Roberta Smith's [review](#) of the Marden retrospective last Friday. As [you might remember](#), I also enjoyed reading about Marden's paper towel preference in last week's fashion section. But enough is enough. In today's [Art Section](#) I read: "On a bright fall day last month, the artist Brice Marden piloted his black Range Rover across a Hudson River bridge in the kind of late afternoon sun that he cherishes." The New York Times has the most valuable real estate in arts journalism. Do you really need to use the front page of the Sunday Arts section to profile Marden's four extravagant residences? (What about mine?)



Carmen Soth is escorted in a 2004 Honda Odyssey minivan to her 3 bedroom, 1 bath estate in Minneapolis where she executes her signature monochromes.

## 8 Comments

1. Alec, I read the NY Times article today about the real estate, and although it was intriguing, I wonder ; what does this have to do with art? Cheers, Wm.  
P.S. I would be happy with a home and studio in New Orleans, with a cool flat in London for getaways – if you wondered.

*Comment by [William Greiner](#) — October 29, 2006 @ [7:28 pm](#)*

2. Well, I kind of like the idea that artists are sharing part of the social gossip column.

*Comment by [Alpher](#) — October 29, 2006 @ [11:16 pm](#)*

3. I have a cool (well, actually rather chilly) flat in London where I execute MY signature monochromes.

*Comment by [guybatey](#) — October 30, 2006 @ [2:56 am](#)*

4. Well, it seemed pretty obvious to me what all the talk of Marden's residences had to do with his art. Each studio/home, and the environment enveloping it, provoked a different visual response from the artist. Marden has quietly worked himself into being a major painter over the last 20 years and it's good to see a critical reimagining of his work now. I could give a rat's ass about how nice his houses are, but it was fascinating to hear about the how the light and scenery of each informed his work. Perhaps if you move the art forward like Marden has over the past 3 decades, one day we will read about how your environments formed your work. But maybe kvetching about it will do just as well....

*Comment by [William](#) — November 3, 2006 @ [9:40 am](#)*

5. I actually do give a rat's ass about his houses. I subscribe to Architectural Digest. I like peeking into that world. I just think the NYT Cribs articles should be left in the style section. But the truth is that I don't really care. I mostly did the parody as a way to goof around with my daughter.

*Comment by [Alec Soth](#) — November 3, 2006 @ [10:57 am](#)*

6. My artist friends and I have been laughing incredulously at that "Range Rover" article for days now!

It really fills the heart with bile and hatred...Choice tidbits include: When Brice is in his Greece studio: "You can paint in the morning, have a big lunch, go for a swim and come back in the afternoon, and the paint's dry." Ahh! Of course, a big lunch!

Or not to be upstaged, what about the writer's observation that "Real estate and art have always been closely intertwined. What would Cézanne's landscapes have looked like if his mistress's brother hadn't had a view of Mount St. Victoire?" Um, it's called LANDSCAPE – not real estate. I think Cezanne could have found a way to have painted his mountain had he not known anyone with a view of it from their patio. It's a MOUNTAIN.

There is just so much to chew on...

"De Kooning is the teacher for our whole generation." But of course he prefers Rothko...I mean surprise me, people! Someone one day, please say that someone other than DeKooning was your "teacher." I beg of you.

Thanks for posting!  
-Amy

*Comment by [Amy T](#) — November 7, 2006 @ [10:22 am](#)*

7. [...] How much should the average person have to read about Brice Marden? According to The New York Times, about once weekly, (not including magazine supplements.) Alec Soth on this here. You might as well peruse the whole blog though, since it's fantastic. [...]

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