

Alec Soth's Archived Blog

September 11, 2006

Peter Hujar

Filed under: [artists](#) — alecsothblog @ 12:13 pm



On [my baseball card](#) I put down Peter Hujar as my favorite photographer. Less flamboyant than Arbus, more raw than Avedon and more heartfelt than Mapplethorpe, Hujar created the perfect blend of the personal and the social.

On [Todd Deutsch's blog](#), he said his favorite is [John Milisenda](#). How did I not know his work?

6 Comments

1. alec, there was a good story on Milisenda a year or so ago in pdn. i'm not certain as to the year/month- but it is worth digging up.

Comment by ben — September 11, 2006 @ [1:09 pm](#)

2. I particularly love Joe Deal's work from the 1970s and early 1980s. It has a wicked sense of humor about how Americans have pushed into the empty, desert West. I hear he's on a year-long sabbatical from his day job (provost at RISD) and I'm dying to see what work he's making now.

Comment by [Tyler Green](#) — September 11, 2006 @ [2:29 pm](#)

3. I didn't know Deal taught at RISD. Another guy named Steven Smith teaches there. His work very much resembles Deal's:

<http://www.photoeye.com/templates/mShowDetailsbyCat.cfm?Catalog=DU022&CFID=4358376&CFTOKEN=78115710>

Tyler, thanks for the plug on Modern Art Notes: <http://www.artsjournal.com/man/>

Comment by [Alec Soth](#) — September 11, 2006 @ [2:42 pm](#)

4. Alec,

Just wanted to tell you how much I've enjoyed your work- and now your blog. Hope to see some of your actual prints one day.

Best, Mike Sinclair

Comment by [Mike Sinclair](#) — September 11, 2006 @ [6:40 pm](#)

5. Thanks Mike. I hope I get out and make more pictures one day.

Comment by [Alec Soth](#) — September 11, 2006 @ [8:23 pm](#)

6. I was talking to a friend of mine from who works as a curator at the National Portrait Gallery last night. He mentioned Hujar and noted that one of the curiosities of collecting his work the annotations on the back of his prints. He would often write edition numbers on the back even when the print was the only one made. "3 of 15" or "final artist proof for series of 25" etc. This was partially out of embarrassment, partially to make the print seem more important. Apparently he sold so rarely that only in a handful of cases does more than a single print exist for each image.

Comment by [raul](#) — September 15, 2006 @ [8:04 am](#)