

Alec Soth's Archived Blog

September 17, 2006

FAQ: Why do you use an 8×10 camera?

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For the record, I don't always use this camera. But my two published books, *Sleeping by the Mississippi* and *NIAGARA* were indeed produced with an 8×10. At one point I looked at the photographers I loved and there happened to be an unusual number who use this format (Nicholas Nixon, Sally Mann, Stephen Shore, Joel Sternfeld, Roger Merten, Joel Meyerowitz). Since it worked for all of these people I figured it was worth a try. And as it turns out there is something special about the format. Beyond the resolution and tonal purity of the negative, the 300mm lens renders the world in a really unique way. But what I really love is the viewing process. The image on the ground glass is just so beautiful. While the format is pretty impractical, I don't know if I'll ever be able to give up on the view.

1 Comment

1. *But what I really love is the viewing process. The image on the ground glass is just so beautiful.*

And now I want to make this experience, too!

Comment by [creezy](#) — September 18, 2006 @ [3:47 am](#)