



*Contemporary Images
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Joel-Peter Witkin: *Eye for the Forbidden*
Photographs from the Collection of George Felice

AT THE PRINT CENTER September 13 – October 20, 2001

held in conjunction with **Jennifer Karady: *Refitting*** and **Christopher Pekoc: *“When Night Turns to Day...”***

OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, September 13, 2001 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at The Print Center

PHILADELPHIA, - Joel-Peter Witkin is a photographer whose images of the human condition are undeniably powerful and controversial. For more than twenty years he has pursued his interest in spirituality and how it impacts the physical world in which we exist. Finding beauty within the grotesque, Witkin pursues this complex issue through individuals cast aside by society—human spectacles including hermaphrodites, dwarfs, amputees, androgynes, carcasses, people with odd physical capabilities, fetishists and “any living myth... anyone bearing wounds of Christ.” His fascination with other people’s physicality has inspired works that confront our sense of normalcy and decency.

The Collection of George Felice best represents Witkin’s eye for the forbidden. In addition to the fourteen photographs that date from the 1980s, The Print Center will exhibit seven studies from the same period. The studies elucidate Witkin’s preliminary processes of sketching his ideas on paper and perfecting every detail before entering the studio to stage his elaborate tableaux. Once the image has been taken, Witkin continues the elaborate process in the darkroom scratching and piercing his negatives to transform them into images that look made rather than taken.

Some of the art work in this exhibition refer to adult themes and may not be suitable for children. Parental guidance is recommended.

Located at 1614 Latimer Street, in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs for art professionals and amateurs; a gallery store; and special events.

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