



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Wanderlust: Photographs by Bremner Benedict
November 21, 2003 – January 23, 2004
Opening reception and Gallery Talk by the Artist
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 21, 2003

PHILADELPHIA: Bremner Benedict, based in Newton, Massachusetts, photographs as if she were a filmmaker moving at an incredibly slow speed. Using a Holga camera, Benedict shoots an image and then searches through the lens for another image to create a dialog with the first. Although taken close in time and at the same location, Benedict's final picture is of an entirely new perspective. Her technique echoes the process of memory in which a collection of fragmented recollections make up the remembered occasion. The use of a plastic camera, its imperfections, soft edges and the partial loss of control by the user, harbor the feelings of impressions rather than recording precise details.

Wanderlust, a series of toned gelatin silver prints averaging in size of 20x24 inches, depicts the world seen at pace of three miles per hour. "Wandering down pathways, looking around, I find places that resemble settings with a past," explains Benedict. "I see landscaped earth, shaped for imagining stories, that happen somewhere between here and there." The desire to wander and contemplate has a long tradition in Western culture. Walking as a cultural activity can be traced as far back to the peripatetic philosophers of ancient Greece to philosophers Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) and Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) to the poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850), who collectively promulgated the romantic idea of solitary rambling as a contemplative exercise. The process of wandering through memories and past experiences is a common theme in Benedict's photographic series, including a woman searching through her psyche for lost memories and a child exploring the edges of order and chaos.

Benedict has been actively showing her photographs since the early 1990s. Her work is represented in several public collections including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Addison American Gallery of Art, Andover, MA, The Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, MA, and the Decordova Museum of Art and Sculpture, Lincoln, MA.

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs; and special events.

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