

DESCRIBING PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTO CLUB
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Defining Interpretation -

Denote = show (flowers, a car, a boy, etc)

Connote= suggest, imply (peace, destruction, flair, sophistication)

Types of Interpretation:

1. archetypal – the possibilities of existence
2. feminist – the way females are depicted in relation to power
3. psychoanalytic – associations that come up, etc
4. formalist – balance, composition, limited to these concerns
5. semiotic – to understand *how* an image means than *what* it means
6. biographical – why does the artist make these kinds of images?
7. intentionalist – what did the artist intend; may be revealed in artist's statement, etc.

Helpful Thoughts on Interpreting Photos:

a. Interpretations don't have to be ruled True or False, but a good interpretation may seem: plausible, interesting, enlightened, insightful, meaningful, revealing, original

or, conversely;

unreasonable, unlikely, impossible, inappropriate, absurd, far-fetched, or strained.

b. Opinions not backed by some degree of reasoning, while valid as an opinion, may lack meaning or usefulness.

c. By keeping interpretations related to the artwork or the artist's statement our statements can be grounded and defensible.

Resources:

Criticizing Photographs, Terry Barrett, McGraw-Hill, 1999, Print.

Eric Kim, erickimphotography.com, Internet.