

MOIRA BARRETT

Artist Statement

Regarding Beauty: Notes on Turning 60

An algorithm is a finite list of well-defined instructions for calculating a function. Starting from an initial state and initial input (perhaps empty), the instructions describe a computation that, when executed, will proceed through a finite number of well-defined successive states, eventually terminating at a “final ending state.”

During my 60th year, I explored the concept of aging and beauty using a precise algorithmic process:

1. Using a cell phone camera, take a picture that you find visually pleasing, one that could be considered beautiful. Do this every day.
2. Using a DSLR camera, take an intellectually challenging self-portrait. Do not be afraid to reveal your frailties or vulnerabilities. You may use the cell phone image as inspiration. Make it interesting, perhaps provocative. Do this every day.
3. Place the two images side by side. How do they relate? Does each inform and expand upon the other? Is one more meaningful or more compelling than the other? Do the images, when combined, illuminate the subject/object question? Ask yourself these questions every day.
4. Repeat this process daily, for a year.
5. Do these portraits alter your self-image? Does the self change as the body ages, or is it immutable? How do the paired photographs relate to the world around you? How do these images expand your interior visual dialogue? Do you at last know what beauty is? Is there such a thing as “beauty?”

Review the output: Has this project reached a “final ending state?” Will it ever?

moirabarrett.com

Biography

Moira Barrett is a fine art photographer based in New England. Originally from Rochester, New York, she has a BA in Art from SUNY Buffalo and recently completed an MFA in Visual Arts from the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University. Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and galleries, including the Cambridge Art Association’s BLUE, RED, and Northeast Prize Shows (MA), Davis-Orton Gallery (Hudson, NY), NAVE Gallery (Somerville, MA), Susan Maasch Fine Art Gallery (Portland, ME), and the Boston Young Contemporaries juried show. In 2009, her work was reviewed in the *Women’s Review of Books* by Dana Hoey. Moira lives in Cambridge with her wife, Johanna, and daughter, Annie.

DANIELLE ASHLEY BURKE

Artist Statement

A Sensed Presence

My experience with the sixth sense, or my ability to see spirits, has always been a major aspect of my life. Many of the images in this series are recreations of what I've seen—they all symbolize how certain events have made me feel emotionally.

For many years I let my ability scare me, now I'm trying to embrace it. Going back and focusing on specific events has been cathartic in many ways because it has forced me not only to think about each event but also to talk about my abilities and experiences as a whole.

When I revisit these memories and tell people the stories I have one goal: I want to convey how I have felt as a result of these encounters. The photos do not necessarily recreate the visual events, but instead they convey the distinct mood or quality of energy generated by the encounters.

danielleashleyphotography.com

Biography

Danielle Ashley Burke is a recent graduate of Ringling College of Art and Design from which she received her BFA in Photography and Digital Imaging in the spring of 2013. During her time at Ringling, Danielle had the opportunity to work with many talented colleagues and companies including: Saks Fifth Avenue (Sarasota, FL), Dior Cosmetics, and Panorama Magazine (Boston, MA). At this time she is currently living in Allston, MA while interning in the photo department of the *Improper Bostonian* Magazine.

