

BEN CARROLL

Presentation by Courtney Meskell

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Ben Carroll is a photographer that was born in Dallas, TX. He is a currently based in and working in Boston. He is the recipient of a residency from OBRAS-Holland Foundation in Renkum, Netherlands where he will spend the month of June. Rooted in ideas around perception, loss and grief, his work centers on domestic life with his husband of 18 years and the impact of mental illness. In May, he will earn his B.F.A. in photography from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston.





WHAT IS ART?

B: Art is a reflection of the times, of a moment, of one's experience. It is a means of expression, an invitation to question, to challenge. It is beautiful, frightening, painful, exhilarating, revelatory. Art is so many things, it is constantly evolving. It is difficult to quantify.





WHO ARE YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCES ?

B: I am influenced by so much. Music and theatre has always been a big influence in my life. I am drawn to the innovation, power and interpretation of musicians like Streisand, Joni Mitchell, Sarah Vaughan, Nancy Wilson, Aretha Franklin. Photographically, I love the work of Sally Mann, Wolfgang Tillmans, Todd Hido, Cartier-Bresson, and Winogrand. I am thrilled by work about light, that evokes a sense of mystery, and that pinpoints a particular space or moment in time. Nature inspires me greatly.





HOW DO YOU SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES?

B: I have found that opportunity means work. It doesn't come easy or free. I feel like I am constantly positioning myself to connect, make myself accessible, and make myself known in the art community. It is fun but it takes time and a lot of energy. I stay connected by using Instagram too much, and adding myself to tons of newsletters and email lists from photo book publishers, artists who interest me, and other online resources for art/job/submission opportunities. At this point, it's about trying to get my work out there.





HOW DO YOU PRICE YOUR WORK?

B: I have been in the position to price a few pieces of my work, but I haven't sold anything yet! This is such a tricky topic. I'm still trying to wrap my head around placing monetary value on the work I make. I have sought advice on pricing work, and made comparisons to artists making similar work and who are at a similar (early) point in their career. It's not easy, and I'm not even sure I'm doing it right.





**IF YOU HAD ALL THE TIME IN
THE WORLD AND UNLIMITED
FINANCIAL MEANS - WOULD
YOU CREATE THE SAME ART
YOU CREATE TODAY? OR
WOULD YOU CREATE
SOMETHING DIFFERENT**

B: It is hard to say how my view of the world would be influenced by unlimited financial means. In my life, I have experienced both extremes of financial hardship and prosperity, and I have remained rather level headed throughout. I have a feeling the work I make would be the same, but the money would help me with time, and the ability to print/frame work more easily.





WHY DO YOU CREATE ART?

B: My parents instilled in me an appreciation for art and beauty and excellence. They encouraged creativity and self expression early on. So to be a maker has always felt necessary and part of who I am at my core.





DO YOU THINK YOU SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY THAN NON-ARTISTS?

B: Yes I do, especially after attending art school. I realize I view the world differently after training than I did before school. I am much more aware of the relationship between objects in space, and how light affects color and perception.





WHAT DOES SUCCESS MEAN TO YOU?

B: Success is relative. I am a young artist, so my achievements are fewer and small. You have to start somewhere though. Considering my ability and effort around artmaking, and this particular time of the world, I am successful in that I have given it my all. Success means commitment and perseverance.





**DO YOU
CONSIDER YOUR
ARTISTIC
ABILITIES AS A
GIFT? OR AS
SOMETHING YOU
EARNED?**

B: If I had to say between the two I'd say that artistic ability is a gift. But one's practice also takes a lot of energy and work, so in that way it is earned because of the blood, sweat and tears required to make a compelling and thoughtful body of work.






**IS THE END
RESULT MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN THE
PROCESS? OR THE
PROCESS? OR ARE
THEY EQUAL?**

B: I think there is value in
both the process and the
end result.



A dark, atmospheric photograph of a modern office interior at night. Several people are silhouetted against a large floor-to-ceiling window that looks out onto a brightly lit city skyline. The office furniture, including desks and chairs, is also in silhouette. The overall mood is professional and sophisticated.

**CONTACT
INFO:**

WEBSITE
INSTAGRAM
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QUESTIONS ?

