



Art in Isolation - a new page for strange times

Part 4: Photographs

Sierra Espuna National Park, Murcia, Spain Lucy Winter



Every winter my husband and I spent a lot of time in the region of Murcia in Spain. One of the most loved places to visit and photograph is the natural landscape up in Sierra Espuna. Sierra Espuna National Park was declared as a Park in 1992 and the Gebas Barrancos was added in 1995. Gebas and the Badlands is an unique area located at the foot of the main pine forest, a lunar landscape of gullies and ravines with the jade green water of the Embalse de Algeciras comprising clay and marl which have been eroded over millions of years to create a unique environment.

I hope my photo will reflect the amazing natural formations of this and hope some of you will have the opportunity to visit this natural Park.

Lucy Winter



I took this photo whilst wandering through a market in Bhutan early in the morning and saw this mother and child. Using sign language, I asked the mother if I could take a picture of her and her beautiful child. She not only agreed but, as you can see from her pointing finger, introduced the child to the photographer.

I enjoy this picture as it speaks volumes to me about a loving mother.

Sheila Brown



It has sometimes been very challenging to remain positive throughout solitary lockdown, and one has had to work hard to invest in making every day matter.

These French irises, which appear every May, were a joy that called for nothing more than just to enjoy and remember. They take me back to an isolated field in the South of France, standing together with my partner holding a clipboard, amidst an array of hundreds of irises of every hue imaginable. What difficulty we had in choosing which ones we'd like for our garden, and what excitement when the parcel of bulbs arrived through the post that September. Then of course there was all the anticipation to wait until the next May to see what emerged. It was joyous - then and now. The memories they hold are precious.

Jane Cursiter



This wonderful photograph was taken by Robert Capa, best known as a war photographer. Gilot strides out across a sandy beach, upright, head back, swinging her arms and laughing, visibly and to me almost palpably infused with the confidence and certainty of her youth and beauty. The small, stocky figure of Picasso, then nearing 70 and the most famous living painter, pads along behind her shading her with an enormous umbrella in a playful attitude of worship. They

both ignore the husky young man behind them who is carrying an ominously symbolic- looking spear.



Picasso and Gilot had a tempestuous relationship and had two children. His contemporary portraits of her expressed his love and admiration and many, like this one, are surprisingly naturalistic. After 10 years, to his immense and lasting displeasure, she left him. She then went on to become a successful painter in her own right and later married Jonas Salk of polio vaccine fame; she is now 99.

'Jewish Giant, taken at Home with His Parents in the Bronx, N.Y., 1970'

Diane Arbus



The art of photography – compared with painting, say – works on us in a strange way. The finality of the image may only take a hundredth of a second but be the result of countless photos NOT taken, and thousands of negatives NOT selected. Then the machine-based apparatus of photography, so superficially 'easy', sometimes plays, as here, with our empathy and distancing. On the face of it there is the crass but memorable juxtaposition of the huge son and his almost comically tiny parents in their stolid middle-class home. Rather deeper is a sad human story – what was it really like for Eddie Carmel to be 8' 9"? What was their family life like, from day to day? Deeper still – at a level where opposites are the lie that allows the truth to be told – is a meditation on children and parenthood: even little babies can sometimes rock us back on our heels, and our children change us for ever.

David Williams



Half a million people gathered to hear Greta speak in Montreal last year, the largest crowd ever recorded in Canada. She had recently given her famous speech at the United Nations demanding “How dare you? You have stolen my dreams with your empty words. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk of is the fairy-tale of eternal economic growth”.

In this picture, calmly facing the enormous crowd, she half-turns toward the photographer with a shy smile. She then gave a confident, witty and powerful speech comparing Canada with Sweden and pointing out that, although both countries pride themselves on their approaches to climate change, their politicians are “absolutely useless”. Surely the most telling prophet of our age is housed in this tiny frame.

Jo Barnes

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