Mirrored Imbalance

Kate Shannon
University of Kentucky

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Kate Shannon

graduated from the University of Kentucky in the fall of 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and an emphasis in studio art. My time at the University of Kentucky served as an invaluable period of growth and self-discovery, which I hope is reflected by my photography. These photographs are from my senior thesis exhibition entitled Mirrored Imbalance. Most of the photographs included in this exhibition are self-portraits intended to reflect my inner being. But, in reflecting the self, these portraits must also show my limitations.

My greatest hope in creating art is that I might be able to take the weakness that exists within myself and capture its innate, natural beauty. In my life, I have struggled with the body that I was born into and the person that I have become. I have learned that an aesthetic and conceptual beauty exists in the natural “wrongs” and in the personal correction of inadequacies.

My self-portraits are taken alone, using a timer on my camera. Through this process, an intimate bond is created between me and the machine through which I create. The camera has become a source to which I tell my deepest secrets, and to which I show myself completely, with no inhibitions.

Jackson Pollock believed that art should serve as a mirror from the artist through the art to the audience, and back. When viewing my photography, my hope is that my audience will be able to see into the person that I am, and the feelings that are not always on the surface.

Pollock also once said: “Put up and shut up”

Mirrored Imbalance

Abstract

My photographs are almost always self-portraits, which has created a unique bond between me and the machine with which I will eventually make art. The camera becomes not just a tool, but a source to which I show myself completely with no inhibitions. In my work, my main concern is my physical appearance and its relationship to interior emotion (the outward vs. the inward). It is my hope that I communicate emotion through images of my body and, in turn, create a dialogue between me and my audience. It is my goal to create photographs that can communicate feeling without a needed explanation in words, which would please my favorite artist, Jackson Pollock, who once said, “Put up and shut up.” With Pollock’s sentiment in mind, I will leave any further explanation to my photographs.

Acknowledgements

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Biographical Information

I graduated Cum Laude the Fall of 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Studio (Emphasis: Photography). I was presented the Dean’s Purchase Award in 2002. My extracurricular activities at UK included Trombone Choir, and Concert and Marching bands.

My future plans include applying to graduate school in photography and doing whatever it takes to make a living as an artist. My gallery here is important because my main goal is to communicate and share with others, so any exposure is needed.

The photographs included in my gallery are all from my senior exhibition, Mirrored Imbalance. The exhibition included work from my senior year in the photography department. The work was a result of helpful critiques by faculty and students, as well as overwhelming support (physical and emotional) from my peers.

More images can be seen in the on-line version of the journal at www.uky.edu/kaleidoscope/fall2004.
MIRRORED IMBALANCE

KATE SHANNON