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Studio

Research & Presentation

Ansel Adams

In the realm of photography you must be able to transport people, both in the photograph and the audience, with you to places you've only dreamt of and I think that's what I find to be attractive about his work because even in the places without people the forms become unworldly. Shooting on expired film to give the colors the harsh ultraviolet, yet washed out effect. The authentic colors of nature get morphed into another reality where everything becomes infrared black and white.

First, his photographs are said to give us a glimpse of what we once saw and if we were to be in an untouched world alone this is what it would be like. (p. 7) Since Adams photographed the American West before there were a lot of highways and settlements which is a period of time that we can't go back to now. He was born in San Francisco and photographed that region over fifty years ago. It's fascinating the amount of detail he catches in them for how there's a large range of view that is caught in each photograph. Adams creates an indestructible landscape that's "not graphic but tonal" (p.8). The time period of the photographs make it that much more powerful. The beginning of a revolution during the world's great depression so to turn the view of nature and the production of old-fashioned prints. Even now there aren't real photographs that are portrayed in the same way in my opinion so the realism is lost even if his images are slightly manipulated in the dark room.

There's not that much of a dramatic difference when there are people posed in his portraits verses just landscape images. Everything is still quiet about them although the people still show importance in his purpose of documentation. The people are reflections of the spaces around them yet you can't even see the settings they're in. It's like every aspect and form of the faces and body become the landscape. Adams uses the same techniques using the dark parts of the photographs to form around the lighter shapes. There seems to be a perfect contrast that

reminisce the feelings he probable felt while taking them as a photographer and backpacker.

Adams himself has come to the conclusion that his photographs might become the last of these pure images as a journey of something he once wanted to protect (p.11). Another time he remarks a story of making his series of images called 'The Making of Forty Photographs' and gives his perspective on his emotions while taking a specific photograph. Adams titles it Moonrise and at the time he thought he was a few seconds too late to get the shot however, his decision to make a duplicate negative occurred given the original negative was one second according to his technical assistant, John Sexton. At the time he was rushing to get the photograph and managed to still capture the moon's exposure correctly by the end of it without his knowledge until checking the film negatives.

It's miraculous how you can trust the film camera but still doubt yourself when it comes to taking photographs. Trials with subjects of all different sorts from real to still to fixed environments are the same trials of life. All of Ansel Adams photographs tell his own stories that he went through and experienced to make the real forms into physical prints. He existed to creating the intangible into his environmental preserve the nature into his photographs.

Works Cited

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<http://anseladams.com/ansel-adams-anecdotes/>