

Bathroom - The "abstract life" as immunity to the vicissitudes of modern living?

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The series, "Bathroom" by Cao Mengqin (Shanghai) is a highly conceptual & poetical interpretation of the seminal novel by the celebrated Belgian author Jean-Philippe Toussaint of the same name.

An abstract life led to the conception of the latter and contemplation of the themes implied by the literary work led to the conception of a visual extrapolation upon the themes which are predominant in a novel which delves into the momentum and psyche of our times.

Each image is a staged creation, evocative as an "echo" of the authors' oeuvre within a linear stratagem. Atmospheric, inherently subjective in its' execution, the series "Bathroom" may be placed within a context of an imagistic reflection of the "abstract life" in answer to and by an inspiration born of an equally abstract literary work.

The photographic act void of an impulsion to document or recreate "life", rather to document or recreate a literary moment? An experimental and innovative project which seeks to challenge the established boundaries of practice or the preconceptions which govern both genres & which attempts to incite a polemical debate of such a dichotomy as abstract renderings of experience, the language of the separate medium & perhaps even of dialectical thought.

Is it possible to lend further contextualization to a work which seeks to neither engender formal aspects within its realization nor dismiss the relevancy of the domains of literary and photographic languages? A post-modernist oeuvre in execution and realization born of the incongruity & randomness of the novel, "Bathroom" is as much a question of the dialectics of dialectics as to find an answer in an echo, a speculation upon subjectivity, the act of interpretation and imagistic poetical ruminations in an era absent of poetry.

Is it conceptually possible therein for the echo to then speak first?