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Jock Sturges: Fanny



Synopsis

Fanny is an extended portrait of a young girl's transition from child to woman. Made over a period of 23 years, the images are at once beautiful in their detail of light and identity, as well as frankly anthropological in their descriptive effect. A naturalist since birth, Fanny's comfort with nudity and her natural self has allowed Sturges to draw an engaging portrait of the evolution of a human being with few social distractions. His access to the girl's and woman's character is direct and fascinating. Long known for his extended portraits of children and adolescents, this book is strong evidence of Sturges' permanent commitment to the people in his work.

Book Information

Hardcover: 200 pages

Publisher: Steidl; Prima edizione (First Edition) edition (February 24, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3869306947

ISBN-13: 978-3869306940

Product Dimensions: 11.5 x 1 x 14.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Sturgesâ™ work has always been about the passage of time - moments captured from the lives of key collaborators as they age and evolve, beginning as blank slates and gradually, slowly, book after book, making their inexorable way towards adulthood. There is real pathos in this, and this is the ultimate value that I draw from Sturgesâ™ work. Working in close year after year, decade after decade, his captured images are like brushstrokes in much larger works than can only now be fully appreciated. The fragmented nature of his previous publications - a few new pictures of this or that person, then jump ahead a few years to the next book and do it again - were interesting, and the stunning technical specs of his large-format portraits never less than beautiful (although my opinion is that the shots themselves sometimes bordered on the pedestrian), but they always seemed somehow too diffuse, too abrupt. A person picking up one of his books without the context of the

others would likely see random nude photos of random nude people, a shallow representation of what Sturges work is about (but what attracts the most notoriety). That all ended with "Misty Dawn: Portrait of a Muse," his first work devoted to just one subject. Finally, a lifetime of collaboration could be appreciated for what it was - a record of moments pulling ever forward. The trend continues with "Fanny," another publication dedicated to moments captured over 22 years in the life of one subject. Fanny has graced the cover of a previous Sturges overview, and has appeared in book after book, always recognizable, somehow universal, but also removed, protected from the outside world by the insular naturist community in France in which Sturges does a large amount of his work.

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