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Liberated images ... invitation to reflection

Maurice Amiel · Wednesday, September 5th, 2018

The accidental emotion off the reflecting surface of a porcelain vase, actually the distorted reflection of a linear light fixture, is one type of liberated image in the sense of being free from the optical standards of reflected image off a plane mirror.

The following two images illustrate reflections off spherical mirrors, intending to inform the viewer about incoming traffic hidden in dog-leg or switchback spatial situations, particularly in areas of heavy pedestrian circulation where relatively violent encounters can otherwise occur.



Dog leg situation at a hospital ramp access



Switch back situation at a subway stairway

In both cases the visual distortion isolates the image from its context while allowing a large area of that context to be reflected in the mirror, as if miniaturized by it while contributing information about an invisible space.

The next two images involve a reflection of parts of myself, firstly off a tarnished stainless steel serving plate placed to dry behind the kitchen sink faucets then, secondly off a typical vertical mirror located at the entrance of my new digs.



Hands of the dishwasher turned photographer.



The photographer's self portrait

In both cases, due to the nature of photographing off a plane mirror, the hands holding the camera are included in the general image, in the course of taking the photograph.

In the first case they are the subject of the photograph, in the second they add a different stance

and effect from static conventional portraiture, recalling some of the self-portraits of Boubat

Whereas Boubat's self-portraits include generous parts of his home reflecting his identity, this one includes my hats as if in a last reflection before leaving.

Credit Maurice Amiel for all images

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