Shayne Parks

ENG

Birds and the Bees

Every since I was little, I loved animals. They are very interesting and mysterious organisms, even with all the facts we know about them. They all have environments that hold a purpose to their living. But in these photos I’ve displayed they are in some unusual places that people wouldn’t think to see them and have no purpose in being there. I find both these photos bizarre and interesting.

The first photo, which I named *The Bees*, was taken at 2:01 p.m. on 9/12/2015. It displays 7 bees incased in a empty water bottle. Some are climbing up the side of the bottle while a few are on the bottom. The story behind this pro filmic photo is during the summer I worked on a patio for this country club. Since bees are attracted to sweet things and we mainly worked sweet things such as soda and coffee, we would get a visit from them. While I was working, bees would always come around and annoy not only us, but the members also. Sometimes that would be so many of them the members would eat inside to avoid them. One day, I left a half empty can of coca cola on the counter and, of course, bees started to swarm near and into it. My manager then ordered me to come help inside with carrying trays into the kitchen. While I was doing that, my friend decided to capture bees that were swarming the cans into the water bottle. I was so fascinated at the sight of it I just had to take a picture. It was nothing I have ever seen before. I think it’s funny that bees that are normally attracted to sweet objects are trapped inside a water bottle and we all know water is not sweet. It’s like a hell for a bee in my eyes. The quote “At its simplest, the message, decoded means: I have decided that seeing this is worth recording.” in Joe Berger’s *Understanding Photography,* states how I feel about this photo. The moment my friend told me about it, I was like I have to save this moment and show other people about it.

In the second photo, which I named The Birds, was taking at 10:47 a.m. on 2/23/15. It showcases a flock of crows are sitting on 2 tree planted outside of a church in broad daylight. The story behind it was that on my way from BOCES to my home school, I saw a whole bunch of crows outside of a church just sitting there. The bus was at a stop light so I decided to take a picture of this strange phenomenon. In this pro filmic photo I find it very bizarre because of the meanings behind these 2 subjects. A church is a building used for public Christian worship. A crow is normally associated with bad omens and evil spirits. Seeing them in the same picture let alone the same place, makes me wonder about this establishment. I like to think of it in a way of maybe it means there is always evil where good is or there’s beauty behind the madness. I looked up crows environments and a website said they like to be in high places. The quote “but despite the presumption of veracity that gives all photographs authority, interest, seductiveness, the work that photographers do is no generic exception to the usually shady commerce between art and truth. Even when photographers are most concerned with mirroring reality, they are still haunted by tacit imperatives of taste and conscience.” in Susan Sontag’s *On Photography* I think applies to my second picture. Even with all the explanation I just gave and what the photo shows, there still isn’t enough evidence to tell you why they are in that setting. It’s just my interoperation of the situation.

The intriguing photos I respectively named The Bird and The Bees, is very bizarre in similar but different ways. As I stated in my thesis, all animals have places where they are comfortable and/or people would normally see them. But this goes to show that they can be anywhere, even if they are captured. When people say bees or crows they would normally think bee hives or farms. When looking at this picture without any contexts, I would be confused and wonder how this happened. Although as I stated in the previous paragraphs that my interoperation for both these photos are different by meaning to me, they are both ironic if you think about it. Crows outside of a church is a strange phenomenon that very religious people would assume as a bad omen and bees in a water bottle to me is cruel and unusual torture to a bee considering they can’t make honey with little drops of water.

In nature, all organisms have designated to an environment they can live or benefits them. But these photos prove that they can be anywhere.

Bibliography

Berger, John. "Understanding a Photograph." (1980): n. pag. Web. 8 Nov. 2015.

Sontag, Susan. "On Photography." (2013): n. pag. Web. 8 Nov. 2015.