

Q & A with Jörg Colberg

Blake Andrews Blogspot (2015)

[...]

BA: Don't you collect found photos?

JC: I do.

OK, where does that urge come from?

I think there are multiple reasons. One of them is that I can afford to buy found photos. That's essentially the only photography I can afford, books aside maybe. And I love the process of finding them. Ideally, I find them in person, in some shop somewhere. It's a lot less fun on eBay. Even though on eBay I look very specifically for photographs, which I collect very slowly.

Is there a theme? Or what do you look for?

There are themes, but they depend on where I look. When I look on Ebay, I have some themes. When I look in a shop, especially when they have a lot, I make up a theme on the fly. There's a shop in Berlin that has tons of found pictures. Every year, I go there, for example. There's so much I can't browse without some sort of theme. Last year, for example, I came up with "Other People's Party Pictures" and "Disinterested Women."



from Haunted Air, 2010, Edited by Ossian Brown

Have you seen [Ossian Brown's Haunted Air](#)? it's pretty great.

Yes, I have that book. It's great. Get yourself a copy of [Arjan de Nooy's Party Photographer](#). It's cheap and a lot of fun. I'm envious I didn't come up with that idea, especially since I already collected party pictures.

I will look for it. That's perhaps the next wave of found photography, curation into very specific themes. Erik Kessels has been doing it but not many others yet.

Right. De Nooy took it a step further by pretending the pictures were all made by one specific (fake) photographer. It's quite funny.

So it's a fiction created from real photos? Like [Wisconsin Death Trip](#)?

Sort of. Except it's way funnier. It's one of those books where there's actual genuine fun in the whole thing. Kessels has that as well. But De Nooy really pushed it.

[...]