

The Many Faces of Nature: A Look at CSP's Photo Biennial

BY BROOKE STEIGAUF

CSP PROFESSOR CATE VERMELAND awed art appreciators once again with her curated Photo Biennial Exhibition, which offers students the opportunity to compare how multiple artists interact with our world and interpret a common theme.

With this year's collection focusing on nature, Hilary Bullock invited us into the room with square images of "tangles" of brush, sticks, trees, and water that intermingle to create patterns. These organic messes draw attention to the subtle complexity of each individual, natural element in our environments. Bullock visits a series of state parks and nature reserves on a weekly basis, experiencing them differently with each return. "I like the different ways I get to see the images," the artist said, then explaining her attachment to fallen trees and other ever-changing natural components. Bullock described herself as a "responsive" photographer, someone who is passive in her pursuit to find a shot. She waits for the image to jump out at her, taking only select opportunities. This being said, Bullock is intentional in taking at least one photo per day.

Joseph J. Allen, another featured artist, printed his nature photos onto maple plywood, allowing viewers to observe the nude grain wherever white would have been present. While some of his images shared relatively open scenes with a sense of loneliness, others provoked the feeling of comfort one feels while being engulfed by a canopy of trees. Allen stated that he "wants to provoke an emotional response, more so than an intellectual one." My favorite piece was titled, "Stone Arch Bridge," a structure that viewers struggle to see through a cluster of brush, making nature the priority.

Photographer Jeff Kreger's work focuses on human interaction with nature, as he sees the reflection of pure nature as false concepts that are not reflective of our reality. He said that his photography has "reinvented the landscape with meaning based on human perspective, giving voice to the marginalized." His images are of majestic waterfalls and familiar views of state park attractions, interrupted by human activity and interference. Kreger believes, "The only 'contest' that will matter in the future is the one between a chastened humanity and an angry nature."

CSP's Photo Biennial offers a series of glimpses at the nuances of our natural world, that which is prospering and suffering before our eyes. It gives a broad range of perspectives, different iterations of the same story, each with their own intention and impact. As CSP's gallery can attest, nature always wins. †



From top to bottom

"Stone Arch Bridge" by Joseph J. Allen

"Sylvan Lake, Custer State Park, South Dakota" by Jeff Krueger

"Indian Mounds Park. 03-22-2016 6:09PM"

by Hilary Bullock

All photos by Brooke Steigauf

Movie Review: *Border*

BY MATTHEW IUNG

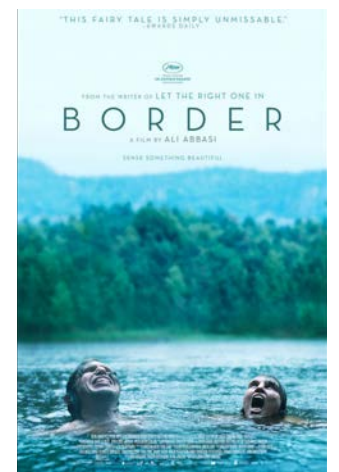
BORDER (GRÄNS IN SWEDISH) IS A Swedish fantasy film directed by Ali Abbasi, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Isabella Eklöf. The film is based on the short story of the same name by John Ajvide Lindqvist; it can be found in his anthology *Let the Old Dreams Die*. *Border* has been awarded the Uncertain Regard Award, at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival. This is an award that is meant to point out that this particular film is approaching the world from a unique point of view. It was also selected as the Swedish entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 91st Academy Awards.

The story follows Tina, who is a disfigured young woman working as a customs agent in Sweden. She is the best at what she does and even gains notability from the local police when she begins assisting in cases. Her life changes though when she meets a bug-eating drifter named Vore. He seems to know something and is more than willing to take his sweet time in divulging his secrets.

Eva Melander (Tina) and Eero Milonoff (Vore) give beautiful and thoughtful performances. The pair of actors is under layers and layers of makeup, an impressive fact for a couple of reasons. The makeup is excellently applied, almost perfect. This heavy makeup can be a serious restraint for actors because makeup will never be able to convey the emotions that the naked human face can. So while it is extremely difficult to pull off, both actors manage to build a level of intensity and express sexual tension from the first frame in which they are together.

Border is as dark a fantasy tale as they come, while still being touching and exploring new ground in the genre. What sets it apart from other movies and literature is its ability to bring the horror and humanity of its concept to the 21st century. It honors Scandinavian folklore and through that, builds a world that looks just enough like our own to scar the viewer.

Along with this, also has a lot to say about what it feels like to be alone, look different, find love, and balance our professional with our personal life. I highly recommend this film to anyone who is a fan of folklore or dark fantasy. Even if you can't make it to the theater, it's more than worth your time and money to buy or rent the DVD. †



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