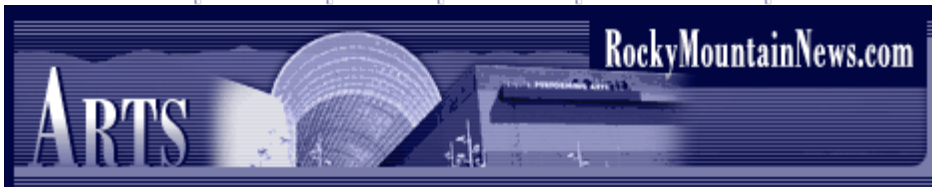


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Photo exhibit invites reflection on the 'art' of humanity

By Mary Voelz Chandler, Rocky Mountain News
November 12, 2003

Photographer Andrea Modica creates images that show a strong need to acknowledge humanity.

A show at Sandy Carson Gallery of 38 platinum palladium prints invites the kind of reflection Modica's work inspires.

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In selecting photographs, Modica, Carson and gallery director Jeremy Stern sought to assemble a show focused on landscape and the figure. So there are examples of newer work - the current "Fountain" series, and other Colorado-based imagery - as well as samples from Modica's travels in Italy.

It is difficult, though, not to focus on two things. First: several of her most celebrated photographs from the "Treadwell" series chronicling the life and environment of an Upstate New York family, and the young woman Barbara. They are piercing pieces, with a mix of honesty and enigma that dares a viewer to enter into this very different world.

Second: the absence of examples from Modica's powerful "Human Beings" series - perhaps the ultimate forum for seeking a connection to humanity. They are solemn images, and they are missed in this show.

In a recent conversation, Modica addressed the issue of comparisons between her work and that of Sally Mann, who years ago caused comment with images of her children in, well, bluntly personal situations.

Modica said she'd heard it: "Big format photos made by women, of children." She credits the link to the rarity of such work at that time, nothing more; Modica says the two artists are



"big supporters" of each other.

But they diverge on the degree of distance between photographer and subject. Mann at that time stayed close to home - she since has moved on to much different realms. Modica stepped into someone else's turf. It produced a magical environment, the base for digging into the soul, which is at the heart of this show.

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