

Jim's Journal

by Jim



Brad Montgomery



Freshly Brewed Magic & Comedy
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Photographer calls nude stills outlet

By Alan Phelps
Senior Editor

"The Neck is a Sensuous Thing." Visitors to the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are greeted with that title on one of the photographs in the George Tuck exhibit. On the picture, one can look at the neck in question.

Other photos in the nude section of the exhibit allow a glance at various other female body parts, many of them well below the neck.

Tuck, a journalism professor at UNL and the man behind nude portraits such as "The Enchanted Forest," said nude photography is just another outlet for artists' creativity.

"It's one other subject matter to explore," he said. "It's just a small part of what I do; 90 to 95 percent (of my photos) are not nude."

Tuck said nude photos are much like other photos. The basic photographic elements such as lighting, texture and form are all important when comparing the quality of different nudes.

"You look for... something that has some air of mystery that perhaps raises questions rather than answers them," he said.

One of the most important things about doing artistic nude photography, Tuck said, is finding the right person to shoot.

"You have to find someone who is relaxed, somebody who thinks it would be fun to do," he said, "somebody who feels comfortable with themselves."

David Dale, owner of David Dale Photography, 1621 A St., doesn't have to look for models. They come to him.

"I don't advertise because I don't want people to think that's all that we do," he said.

Dale said that if someone phones his business and inquires about what he calls "boudoir" portraits he will oblige if the concept is tasteful.

"I'd say 1 or 2 percent of my business is this kind of work," he said. "I do five or six (nude photos) a year out of three or four hundred portraits."

Dale said most of the nude

portraits he shoots are body studies in black and white.

The majority of customers who go to photographers for nude sittings are women who want the photos to give to their boyfriends or husbands as gifts, Dale said. He said he had never taken a boudoir portrait of just a man, but he once photographed a couple.

Dale said women who ask for nude sittings usually range in age from 20 or 25 up to 40 years old.

"They want to do it before they start falling apart," he said. "They can look back when they get older and say, 'Wow, I had a nice body.' It's something they can remember."

Dale said he hoped to put together a private show of his work in the next couple of years, possibly for the Sheldon.

"I've just got to work to get some pieces together," he said. "That's the kind of market I'm delving into."

Tuck said his show, which includes a variety of his recent photos shot around the world, is something that has been in the works for three years. He said he gave the Sheldon 60 of his prints, out of which 45 were chosen for display until Nov. 24.

Tuck said he didn't think the nudes in the exhibit had caused any controversy.

"It's in a reputable museum, and as such, people that go to the museum expect a wide variety of material to be present," he said. "It's the kind of environment in which if you don't like it, you can move on."

Tuck said he is able to sell some of his nudes, but he doesn't think there is a very big market for them.

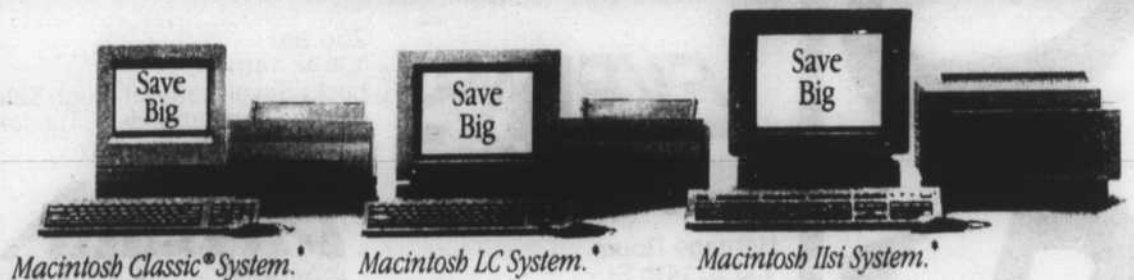
"My main purpose is not to make money," he said.

He said he is flattered and pleased when someone buys one of his photos, he said, but, "I don't have to make a living off sales of my works."

Dale said he charges by the hour for boudoir photos rather than charging his normal flat fee.

"It takes a little time. It's not something you can just jump into," he said.

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