

The most exciting exhibition I've visited since moving to London has got to be the Glamour of the Gods exhibition that was showing at The National Portrait Gallery. It has now come to a close now, which is a little bit sad. I would have loved for it to have stayed there as a permanent collection. The photographs ranged from the 1920's up to the 1960's, but it wasn't just about the photographs and the actor/actress that was portrayed in them. It was also a lot about the photographers themselves. This was a really interesting exhibition because you were able to read about the actor/actress and where the photograph was taken, (usually on the film set) and then there was information about the photographer, which told you what they were about and what they were doing at the time the image was taken.

It's not often that you get to know about the photographer or artist. Most of the time the focus is on the piece of work itself or the subject within it and the actual photographer doesn't really get a mention apart from a small caption, if they're lucky.

I went with my sister to this particular exhibition, which was a nice touch because she has a totally different view on the images than I do, and we were able to talk about our different views and opinions, plus I was able to put my knowledge to use and explain some things to her that she didn't quite understand or wanted to know about in a bit more detail, such as the methods they used for re-touching when there wasn't Photoshop and digital editing. There was also a small glass cabinet that showed you how this would have been done using inks and painting.

Another place I found myself wondering around the other week, once again with my sister, was the Tate Modern. We went to go and see the new installation in the Turbine Hall by artist Tacita Dean. Now I wasn't too sure what the piece was supposed to be about, all I knew beforehand was that she is a film and installation based artist, but it did keep me interested for the 11 minutes that it ran. It reminded me a little of Barbra Kruger's work because of the collage type media and how things were cut and placed at irregular angles and in different contrasting colours.

Anyway, after realising we didn't really understand what was going on we thought we'd have a look at what else was on, and to my great happiness I saw that Diane Arbus was being displayed in the Artists Rooms. Now, once again I have a great love of Arbus, as she was one of the people that got me really interested in photography when I was at school because of the way she looks at the world and the people within it. She takes something or someone that most people would not find attractive or at all remotely artistically interesting, and turns them into something quite unique. And, as I have said a lot before, I was able to see with my own eyes, original prints of some very well known and famous images that I have always admired and longed to see, so having this chance thrust upon me by chance was a great addition to my day!

I would definitely recommend that you all go and see this exhibition it will really give you a different insight into taking photos. And the fact that they are all black and white provides a different and not so 'typical' look into the photographic image, as most of the photographs that we see nowadays in new exhibitions and galleries are all colour and also digital. I am an avid fan and lover of film photography, having used it throughout my years at university through choice, as I really wanted to understand the fundamentals of making pictures and I felt I was able to grasp and understand the concept a lot better by using the old film methods. That's not to say that I'm not a fan of new digital images, far from it, but I will always have a slightly bigger love for all things film!

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