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Self-Portrait I and II

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Self-Portrait I and II

David Versluis

Digital Photography

2008

This short narrative has been with me for over forty years, going back to a time when I was young and worked on the fruit farm. One day I happened to come upon an anonymous day laborer, hung-over, vulnerable, and asleep in the pump house. Startled – I felt like an intruder, a voyeur – I quickly left him alone to sleep it off. These photographs are from a self-portrait project this summer and try to express the story from a couple of viewpoints, suggesting different psychological and emotional compositions. These self-portraits personalize and convey the notion of the “stand-in” or substitute in the story. As art director, I worked with Jim Gebben to develop these images.

Artists have explored the sleep and rest theme throughout art history. Canadian artist Gerald Folkerts authored a contemporary version of the theme. His series of paintings, entitled “Restless Slumber,” was featured in a solo show at Dordt in 2003.



