

Susan McEachern - Clip 10

Working Method

The text always... is, it comes parallel to the visuals. It's not ever stockpiled, I don't have things that... I know, oh, I'll use this in work some day. Always when I'm beginning a new body of work, and it's always quite difficult to do that, it's always more comfortable when you're in production, but when I'm beginning a new body of work, I don't always know what it's about... I'm attracted to some idea or some images. I have some place to... that I want to photograph. I expose film. Usually I'm reading. There's a curiosity frequently, I don't know why, and... but in the process of, you know, sometimes it comes through the images, making the images, looking at the images, and finally this image works. Why does this image work? What is it talking to me about? Why is it clicking? Make more like that, try to work in a greater series, build up a larger... number. Then I may say, well, it has something to do with how this represents a kind of structure of meaning, kind of a way of organizing the world. And then... hmmm... I wonder how they do organize that world. So, you know, starting to read about insects I did, you know, there's way, way more about insects than anyone, I mean would ever hope to know...

... And so while the insect world is large and vast, I started to narrow it down to ants, and

bees, and some of the social insects that we actually know something about...

So the photographs then begin the reading about insects, which then begin the reading about structures of organization... and it sort of falls into place in that way, sort of together, they come together.

