

Susan McEachern - Clip 2

Early Experiences with Photography

I think that... my father was always making photographs. It was something that was you know just part of his hobby sort of thing. And so I pretty much appropriated his camera, while in high school and started working on my own and getting books, and there was a little photo shop down the street... but by the time I was in university I became a fairly serious photographer. I was a member of the photo staff at Hamline University so I... I was regularly going to basketball games, and to speakers, and photographing the homecoming queen, and you know... So I was regularly photographing, and then of course doing my art on the side, and taking those photographic art kind of shots... as part of an independent study, because there weren't formal photo classes. I had to do this independently... but as a result it gave me an awful lot of experience in the darkroom, a lot of time behind the camera, doing a lot of different sorts of work. Hockey was really the hardest that...that ...the ice was just terrible on the old light meter and I think I, you know, I made every mistake with the light meter that you could possibly make... and that was, that was good to make them you know at the hockey games, as opposed to other places. So that...that is really where the, I'd say the passion began. And I would cite even earlier on my mother gave me the book *The Family of Man*, probably I think I was junior high, high school or something, and the amount of time I spent

with that book looking at those photographs... I know the book has been maligned and you know criticized in many ways... there's many redeeming characteristics of it. And then *Look* and *Life* magazine. Those magazines, I felt were wonderful. Looked forward to them, begged for the subscription every month. So, photographs and...and looking at photographs was something that gave a lot of pleasure very early on.

