Bean Dancing, 2005 © Tim Barber

Robin Schwartz

Selecting this photograph, above all others, is my confession about what is foremost in my thoughts and desires. This choice reveals who I am to my core and who I have always been. It is like coming out. OK, this is as far as I go.

I admire Tim Barber as a maker and editor of photographs. He seems true to what he likes, be it high- or lowbrow. I admire that Tim can co-opt cat subjects. As a woman, I have been on guard against cute and cat associations in my work. I would like to talk to Tim about how he thinks about this.

My head contains a file cabinet full of photographs, with categories. I unwillingly see them throughout the day, like ghosts. These photographs must give me something I need or want.

This summer a new image moved in; Brian Ulrich's *Gurnee, IL* – the guy in love with a fishing rod in gorgeous light – there isn't even an animal hook for me in this one. Choosing Brian's photo would have been the sophisticated, presentable choice. But Tim's standing cat edit is the real me, that which I have fantasies about, a fulfillment of Maurice Sendak's illustrations of Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present. This is what I want to dream of, an upright walking cat companion, my red Cornish Rex, Noah. I trust that animal people, my people, would understand. I am a person dependent upon my relationship with animals.

In retrospect my choice reflects my state of mind lately, a sadness at the death of Nathanial, my fifteen-year-old diabetic cat. +

Robin Schwartz is an American photographer. Her photographs can be found in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the National Museum of Art among others. Aperture have recently published her third monograph, Amelia's World: Animal Affinity, edited by Tim Barber. The book features her daughter and her unusual relationship to animals. Robin Schwartz is also an assistant professor in photography at William Paterson Univeristy and is represented by M+B Gallery, Los Angeles.
Please see www.robinschwartz.net. for more information.