I HAVE INHABITED A PLACE frequented by artists making their art

BY DOUG SPOWART
I HAVE INHABITED A PLACE where artists worked using brushes, palette knives, paints, canvas, printing presses, papers, inks and pigments.

I STOOD BEFORE paint encrusted easels and backboards where the painter’s masterpiece had been extracted leaving behind over-painted brush marks.

I HAVE SEEN the splashed paint that trickled down the wall in the artist’s driven, obsessed and frantic quest for creative resolution.

I SAT AT A TABLE where a sumptuous feast once took place, evidenced by the dribbles, splatters and spill-rings from dishes and bowls.

I HAVE WALKED ON A FLOOR decorated with dappled paint. And what I saw were the stars of the Milky Way…
I STOOD IN THIS SPACE AS A PHOTOGRAPHER

And what I saw on the surfaces and the furniture of the studio was a landscape
— not a landscape in the sense of mountains, sky, rivers and trees but rather a landscape of the mind

A Stieglitz equivalent — a simulacrum or maybe something else ...?

Could it be I was directed to photograph by another force ...?
I THOUGHT THAT THESE PHOTOS WERE MY VIEW OF THIS SPACE as a seeker responding to what was there...

BUT in my photography I WAS BEING DIRECTED BY ANOTHER

— I realised that THE INCIDENTAL MARKS the artists left behind WERE IN FACT ORPHANS

I FELT THEIR LOSS, as siblings separated, one chosen (the artwork), the other left behind

I EMPATHISED WITH THESE DAUBS
— I cared for them in ways that the artist who made them never did
  I imagined their faces and heard their voices...

AND THEY REVEALED THEMSELVES TO ME...
THESE WERE NOT JUST MY PHOTOGRAPHS

I came to realise that **THESE IMAGES CARRIED ANOTHER MESSAGE**

- **THE NARRATIVE OF THE ORPHANED ARTWORKS**

  Although rejected and separated from the artist’s masterpiece

  I found that in their collaboration with me they became whole again

**EMPOWERED BY THE CREATIVE SPIRIT OF ART.**
Concept, Photographs, Prose, Design & Production

Doug Spowart

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