



Compass Rose

Literature and Art Journal

Compass Rose interviews **Steven Bliss**

Compass Rose: *What got you into photography?*

Steven Bliss: My Dad making Christmas cards in the darkroom down in the basement.

CR: *What was your first camera?*

Bliss: I'm sure I used several cameras before, but my first serious camera was a 35mm Argus that I got when I was 14 or 15 years old.

CR: *How has your family influenced your art?*

Bliss: In recent years I've used my sons as subjects, and my parents influenced me. I rebelled against them like all children do.

CR: *What other artists have influenced your art?*

Bliss: I have broad tastes and likes in art. I was influenced by comic books especially Jack Kirby comics, graphic artists, and I loved illustrations. Saul Steinberg, Jasper Jones, Friedlander, I enjoy lots of people. I like to mix the ideas from other mediums into what I'm doing; like if I'm listening to music and an image comes to mind I'll use that. I also have art history references in some of the things I do, like the poses of my boys sometimes.

CR: *How has your art influenced your life?*

Bliss: It is my life. I guess you could say it made my career.

CR: *Why is photography important as an artist medium?*

Bliss: Immediacy, the ability to capture a moment of time and render it to its finest detail. Lots of reasons.

CR: *What is your opinion on film vs. digital?*

Bliss: I'm happy with either. I still shoot film, large format, and then scan it.

CR: *How do you think digital has changed photography?*

Bliss: There is even more immediacy. You see what you got when you shot it and it allows for more extreme tracking and recording keeping of image.

CR: *Any advice for a student?*

Bliss: Yes. Be strong, determined, obsessive, and work a lot.