

Southern Archetypy (a series of black and white pictures taken from the South)

The psychologist Carl Jung proposed that each of us inherits segments of a storehouse of memories generated through the repetitive experiences of our ancestors. In effect we inherit learning. We can know without necessarily being taught. We can inherit knowledge and skill by virtue of the fact that for untold generations certain ideas have been constantly brought to the forefront of human imagination, consideration, and practice. As a result, certain skills as well as a variety of widely deliberated intellectual and emotional predispositions, socially rehearsed and individually cultivated over and over across vast expanses of time, have become familiar parts of human existence and individual experience. Accumulatively, Jung claimed, we are bound to seek beauty, aesthetic, some form of organization, recognition, humor, isolation, meaning, purpose and transcendence. Jung further believed that these themes were most clearly and repetitively verified in works of art. He attempted to isolate these many elements of psycho-biological motivation by coining the concept of the archetype.

The archetype in us is instrumental in defining our perspective, directing our thought processes and connecting us to the many possibilities of both our conscious as well as our unconscious inspirations, insights, aspirations, and understandings. Since archetypes can be universally as well as randomly shared by others in the human community, we would be moved to identify with those who concur in our impressions, our interpretations, and our understandings regarding ourselves and the world around us. As an example, artistic recognition, the ability to define and respond to what is considered aesthetically worthwhile, would be arrived at through an innate individual and group consensus.

No where and no when is there a place like the South. In part, "Southern Archetypy" is about signs and symbols, suppositions, fantasies and remembrances prompted by cultural artifacts I have found in the land. As expressions of a characteristic "art" articulation stemming from my own involvement with certain themes, fantasies and memories, the photographs in "Southern Archetypy" are, of course, about me. They are at surface meant to draw attention and appreciation. But as a result of conscious and unconsciously shared emotions, motivations, insights, and recognitions, they are also about you. By paying attention to your own reactions, you are likely to find that these pictures suggest a variety of latent as well as recognizable themes and stories, and that they strike a certain resonating chord from which you and I both may derive an abiding sense of accomplishment, as well as a lingering sense of pleasure.