Clarence Laughlin

Moraa Onchonga
Childhood

- Born in Lake Charles, Louisiana in 1905
- Parents: William Henry Laughlin (Irish) and Emolie Caroline Gajan (Creole)
- New Orleans: Homeland
- Personality: introvert
- Religion

The Oak Arch, Woodlawn Plantation 1945
THE ENIGMA 1941

ENCHANTED TREE 1947

Thursday, November 3, 2011
Behind the Scenes

- Education
- Inspirations
- Influences
Clarence Laughlin Qualities

- Known as the “Father of Surrealist Photographs”
- Use of double exposure to create Spectral images
- Light and Dark colors
- Uniformity
- Long titles
Clarence Laughlin
Photography

BESEIGING WILDERNESS 1938

A VISION OF DEAD DESIRE 1954
“Photographer’s mind and heart must be dedicated to the glory, magic, and mystery of light.”

——Laughlin
Clarence Laughlin
Photography

THE SHELL SPIRAL 1946

WOMAN REFLECTED 1938
Clarence Laughlin
Photography cont...

HOUSE OF HYSTERIA  1941

FIGURE HEAD 1941
Society became a procession of lies and hypocrisies - and everyone had to wear masks of various kinds, for various purposes. Often, the mask grew to its owner, - the assumed character displacing its owner's original character... This process is indicated in visual, and symbolic, terms here - the disturbing thing being that the mask is like the girl herself - grown harder, and more superficial.
Behind the Scenes
The Repulsive Bed 1941

The building looks completely deserted. Nevertheless, on the second floor there is a window that is not boarded; sometimes in the late afternoon when the heat is at its worst a hand will slowly open the shutter and a face will look down on the town.

--Carson McCullers

“Art should make you think and feel.”

Laughlin
THE SAD CHILD

POSSESSED BY THE PAST 1939

Thursday, November 3, 2011
Kids

Thursday, November 3, 2011
Solace in the Midst of Colamity

Thursday, November 3, 2011
Her Eyes Speak
Clarence Laughlin
Accomplishments

- *Ghost Along the Mississippi*, a book of photographs that focus on pre-Civil War plantations, was Laughlin’s best known published work.
- *New Orleans and Its Living Past*
- Worked in Vogue Magazine.
“The limitations of photography are nothing more than the limitations of Photographers.”


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