

Quincy Jones With Woman

Photographer: David "Oggi" Ogburn



Art Critique

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Art 360 Introduction to Painting

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David “Oggi” Ogburn photographs of celebrities is on exhibit in the Fine and Performing Arts Building at Bowie State University. There are many interesting photographs on display. The title of one of the piece that I have chosen to critique from Mr. Ogburn's collection is entitled “Quincy Jones with Woman.” It is a 16X20 inch black and white photo of a man and a woman. The date and location of where the photograph was taken is not revealed.

The black and white photograph provides a closeup view of the subjects. It is centered and the zoomed in perspective blocks out most of the background scenery and captures the intimacy of the subjects. The photograph portrays a seemingly private moment between a man and a woman. They appear as if they are sharing a private joke or secret. They appear to be in harmony and enjoying one another.

The title that the artist chooses can often be as telling and as significant as the actual piece of art. The title can depict the artist personal view of their artwork. In this case, the title “Quincy Jones with Woman” leaves much to the viewers imagination.

Originally, I thought the title of the artwork was condescending and did not honor the woman in the photograph because the artist leaves her nameless. . At first glance, the title may even be offensive to some women. However, as a man pondering deeper about the artist intentions and choice of the title, I am of the opinion that it adds depth to the artwork. Only referring to her as Woman, leaves the viewers curious. The absence of the woman's name could play to the imagination of the viewer. By keeping the woman's name anonymous, the artist creates a bit of mystique about the artwork. The artist leaves it open to the viewers interpretation. He did not write that it was 'a Woman' or 'the Woman' only Woman. The viewers are left to ask the question, Who is this woman?

The male in the photo is a well known celebrity. He is Quincy Delight Jones Jr. an American

record producer, musician, composer, and film producer. He was born on the South side of Chicago on March 14, 1933. His career spans six decades in the entertainment industry with a record 80 Grammy Award nominations and 28 Grammys. Quincy Delight Jones has written musical arrangements for some of the great legends like Duke Ellington and Count Basie. He accredits his work ethic to his father who gave him a rhyming motto: "Once a task is just begun, never leave until it's done."¹

The artist captures the splendor of the moment as the woman and Quincy Jones peer deep into each others eyes. Quincy Jones appears to be living up to his middle name Delight, and engaging in a delightful moment with the nameless woman in the photograph. Though the woman is nameless, Quincy Jones appear to be very knowledgeable of who she is. The photo depicts the delight in Quincy Jones face as they exchange grandeous smiles . The closeness of the two is even more revealing. They are either very good friends or relatives.

The two appear to be at a formal event and wearing what appears to be formal attire. However, their unobtrusive informal closeness to each other makes the viewing of this photo intriguing. The woman is wearing a tweed blazer and a intricate patterned neck scarf. Her hair is done is a short curly style and she is sporting very stylish earrings. Quincy is wearing a silk blazer and a white dress shirt with a black silk neck wrap that has a jewel in the center. His left ear is adorned with a diamond stud.

The artist does not state the date of when the photo was taken nor does the zoomed in view give an indication of the location of the event but the attire of the subjects in the photo is revealing. The two appear to be at a formal event and perhaps at an awards ceremony or a performance. How do they know each other. Did they come the event event together? Did they perform together? Where they giving congratulatory remarks for a job well done? Why are they so joyous ? Only the subjects can answer these questions.

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quincy_Jones

The photographer not only creates a sense of awe in this photo, he is also creating a moment of happiness for the viewer. They often say that laughter is contagious. When I saw this photo with the two subjects smiling so profusely, I also felt happy. I felt happy for them, that they were enjoying each others company. For a brief moment, I wanted in on the joke or conversation that they were having. I believe the photographer wanted to be a part of that moment as well and that is why he zoomed in with his camera to capture the scene.

Overall, I like everything about this photographic artwork. From the title to the photographer's choice of using a black and white image. Black and White photographs, in themselves, can leave much to the viewers imagination. The viewer can imagine their own color schemes. The artist does a great job allowing the viewer to participate in this artwork. He invokes a euphoric happiness mixed with intrigue. This is an excellent piece of work.