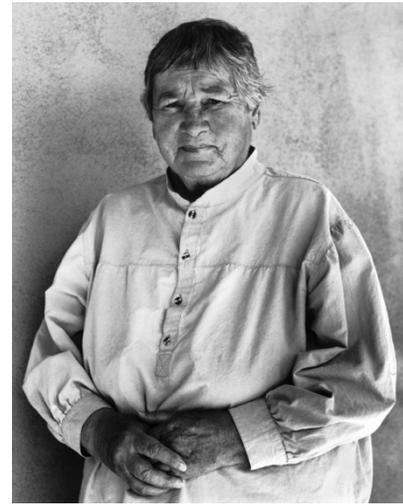
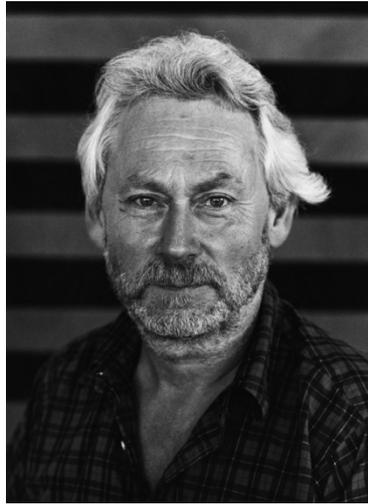


NEWS

ZANE BENNETT CONTEMPORARY ART
CHRISTOPHER FELVER AND JEAN ARNOLD

For Immediate Release:



Photographer Christopher Felver's portraits of Louise Bourgeois, 1989; Donald Judd, 1992; Agnes Martin, 1994; silver gelatin prints, 20 x 16 inches

Who: *Christopher Felver and Jean Arnold*

What: *Christopher Felver: The Importance of Being*, photographs and film of artists, writers, poets and musicians

Jean Arnold: Excavations, paintings and drawings

When: Friday, September 28, 2012 until Friday, October 24, 2012; Opening reception on Friday, September 28, 2012 from 5:00-7:00 pm. Last Friday Art Walk in the Railyard Arts District.

Where: Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, 435 S. Guadalupe St., Santa Fe, NM 87501

Zane Bennett Contemporary Art is pleased to announce works by two featured artists, one exhibition: *The Importance of Being*, Christopher Felver's photographs and films of musicians, artists, writers and poets from the past 30 years; and *Excavation*, an exhibit of Jean Arnold's paintings and drawings. The opening is at the gallery, 435 South Guadalupe Street, across from the rail station, from 5:00-7:00 pm to coincide with the Railyard Arts District Last Friday Art Walk.

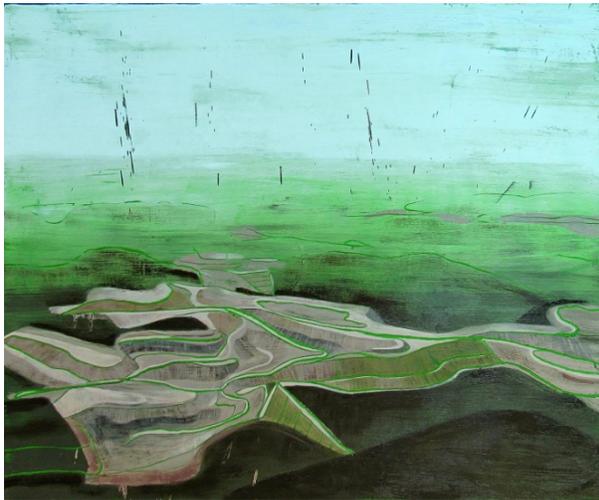
Christopher Felver

The creative spirit is Christopher Felver's impetus when it comes to his photography and film making. In Felver's exhibition, *The Importance of Being*, we are invited to meet the iconic artists, musicians, writers and poets of our time face to face. "These are our cultural heroes, they are creative revolutionaries, what is left of our thinking society," says Felver.

Felver's introduction to poetry began in 1961 when his grandmother, who worked on Kennedy's presidential campaign, took him by train from Akron, Ohio to Washington, D.C. for the inaugural

ceremonies where he heard Robert Frost recite his poem “The Gift Outright.” From that point on, “I felt the importance of poetry to society, how universal it is.” Over 30 years, Felver has documented the writers and poets of the Beat Generation resulting in his book *Beat*, a comprehensive overview of the era. “The poets and artists of that generation still fire my enthusiasm for being a fellow traveler with this tribe of angels and anarchists. Their style reflects that of an earlier era, when communication was done in person and in cafes.” Felver honors the imaginative genius of the individual which is in direct contrast to our society’s insistence on a consumerist mono-culture. In 1984, Felver moved to New York City to finish *The Poet Exposed*, and was introduced to the artists and writers of the New York School.

The Importance of Being, Felver’s book by the same title, includes important European artists. As a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome from 1988-90, Felver was introduced to the art world in Europe. He began photographing the European artists in earnest which established him as an important American photographer and catapulted him in to photographing the continent’s renowned artists such as Georg Baselitz, Tony Cragg, Antoni Tapies and Gerhard Richter. This led to the solo exhibition of Felver’s work at the Pompidou Center, in Paris in 1994. Felver’s portraits can be seen as the Who’s Who of western culture. His ability to give us an intimate view of our cultural icons reminds us that life in the arts is indeed honored and appreciated.



Green Coal, 2012, oil on linen, 40 x 48 inches



Black Thunder: Infinity, 2012, oil on linen, 40 x 48 inches

Jean Arnold

“Today, vast operations by transnational mining corporations create strange new landscapes. We have little reference in viewing them, since few of us ever see these places. The extractive economy, in its hunger for raw materials, has entered its late phase – now going after resources in the most difficult and vulnerable places. To depict these operations destroys any sentiment of the “pastoral” that has existed in art.” states Jean Arnold, a painter who is trying to wake us up to what is happening in areas of the country that have been transformed and dismantled in pursuit of energy extraction. Her focus has been on pit mining in particular, and its impact on communities in the West. Since much of the mining happens in places away from large urban areas, many people never see the damage and destruction that comes from these industrial developments. Jean Arnold is asking all of us “where do we go from here?”



Even though Arnold's paintings describe the destruction of natural environments, the images created are beautiful in their simplicity of line and seductive color. We are drawn into fantastical spaces that could be distant planetary worlds. Arnold is reminding us that we need to be aware of what is going on under the mantle of energy creation and poses the question: how can we continue on this path? Destroying the land that supports us will have consequences, and she wants all of us to be aware that we can participate in the ongoing dialogue about the sustainability of our current practices.

**Zane Bennett will be hosting this exhibition starting
Friday, September 28, 2012, from 5:00-7:00 pm
as part of the Railyard Arts District, Last Friday Artwalk**

For further information, please contact:
Meg Hachmann, Special Project Coordinator, Zane Bennett Contemporary Art
505-982-8111, x1014; megh@zanebennettgallery.com