

I'm interested in photography's power to summon up memory

Geoffrey James – Clip 10

I'm interested in photography's mnemonic power, its power to summon up memory. I think it's a secret weapon and the thing that's always terrified the painters from the very beginning: that a really good photograph has a strange transporting character, it sort of simulates the real, although a photograph is not the same as the subject. So I like that aspect of photography. And it's central quality really is to do with conditions of light and when I'm feeling dogmatic sometimes I say there is no subject in photography, there are only conditions of light and we each learn to photograph in different kinds of light...and what works and what doesn't and what seasons. And I tend not to work in the summer at all...worst season for me, lights too brutal. Trees look like broccoli with impenetrable shadow. I like the spring, the fall, the winter. Maybe some early morning in the summer or something, but times of day, all that stuff, it's hard to talk about, but as I said earlier, you learn when not to photograph is probably the most important thing.