

## Major influences

*Geoffrey James – Clip 7*

I suppose what's influenced my present practice is the sum total of my life. When I started to photograph I was very lucky in that I had access to some of the great photographers. I think it's in 1968 that I met Andre Kertesz in New York and we became pals. I would visit him in New York and he actually came to see me in Montreal and it was sort of wonderful to be around him. It demystified a lot of things. I learned a few things from him. His main advice to me was "make better print" and you know I saw a lot of other people, I mean Lartigue stayed in my house. Jacques Henri Lartigue was a house guest in the mid seventies, you know a man who made great photographs in 1911. So I had this....and I was also very, very lucky when I was in Montreal in the 1960's to be part of a community of artists and photographers. On the other hand, I must have been influenced by people who are not photographers. You know the great collagist Kurt Schwitters, I think, taught me a lot about picture making and what to do with the edge and ....I like looking at early Italian paintings....I like Poussin, I like the way people compose pictures. You can't compose a picture in photography, you can only frame it. I'm, you know omnivorous visually, I love to

look at stuff and ...so it's everything, it's....everything has influenced me including the last good meal I had.