

Mr. Jurgen F. Boden  
1000 Berlin-Grünwald  
Trabener Strasse 55 A  
West Germany

Dear Mr. Boden:

Thank you for sending me the large selection of Miss Catherine Young's photographs. I have spent considerable time with them, studying them separately and as a group representative of her work.

They clearly manifest her entrancement with the details and complexities of nature, living and physical, and that she is aware of the beauty in weathered stones and tree trunks, in life and death. The strange and usual juxtapositions of these aspects of the world with which she is emotionally involved and loves are what she is intent to capture in pictures.

Yet I feel that she is groping to express these emotions; that she has not resolved an uncertainty as to what direction to pursue. Her photographs are like notes kept to remind her of unfinished tasks. They do not fully realize the perceptions that inspired her. They lack mature selectivity in that in too many cases the focus on the subject is ambiguous as though she were unable to decide what she wanted to photograph and was torn between the several aspects that attracted her, and therefore included too much. As a group her subjects are not coherent. They contain no unified theme.

There is much promise, however, in these images and given time and relentless self-criticism she should be able to bring her work into clearer focus.

In view of this appraisal, I am sorry to have to say, I could not with honesty write an essay on Miss Young's photography that would satisfy her expectations.

Yours sincerely,

*Elst Porter*