

EDITOR'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONTEMPORARY ART PROJECT

Revised 040207

BACKGROUND

This project involves an artist with an acute sense of contemporary anxiety, attempting to create work that taps into that anxiety. The artist is Kerry Skarbakka, a very well known and respected contemporary photographer. He straps himself into harnesses, stages "falls" and digitally erases the evidence of the harnesses. The prints are large digital prints.

In July, 2005, he staged an event at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. He invited me to document the event. I did so. The footage includes rehearsals of his "falls", his being photographed by well known photographers Matt Siber, Brian Ulrich, Pulitzer-prize winner John White, etc., and interviews. One of the interviews was by Neil Steinberg from the Chicago Sun-Times. He excoriated Skarbakka in his review; that was picked up by the press in New York and by the governor of New York. People quickly jumped on the lynching bandwagon. Skarbakka event received death threats.

There is a plethora of information on the web about the event, positive and negative. A few examples among many:

<http://www.skarbakka.com/>

http://www.gallery51.com/html51/artists/kerry_skarbakka_iframe.html

http://www.iconoduel.org/archives/2005/07/000665_while_i_was_out_fall_guy_edition.php

While I Was Out, Fall Guy Edition

http://channel.creative-capital.org/project_896.html

<http://www.skarbakka.com/ChicagoTribune.html>

<http://media.www.dailynorthwestern.com/media/storage/paper853/news/2004/02/05/Play/Boldly.Going.To.Modern.Arts.Boundaries-1913620.shtml>

<http://www.thetalentshow.org/archives/001860.html>

INSTRUCTIONS

Research this event using the web. Form your own opinion on the issues, then edit the footage to correspond. Write voice-over in your own voice or write intertitles that reflect your view.

Peter Thompson