

BLOUIN ARTINFO

OCTOBER 12, 2014, 9:18 AM

John Waters Offers Useful, If Filthy, Advice at FotoFocus

Pin It 2K+ bet 1 Log In 0 Comments SHARE



John Waters' performance of "This Filthy World" at the opening weekend of Cincinnati's FotoFocus Biennial was full of useful information: that "blouse" can be gay male slang for "a feminine top," that "blossom" is something you never want to Google without your Safe Search on, that what appears to be a shot of Divine's genitalia in "Female Trouble" is actually a stand-in. But amid the behind-the-scenes stories and Ansel Adams digs was a nugget of wisdom directly applicable to young filmmakers and photographers alike. Waters extolled the virtues of always having a unit photographer — that is, someone on set to take pictures of the filmmaking process — because, as he pointed out, that iconic shot of Divine from "Pink Flamingos," gun brandished, was never actually in the movie. "You remember the stills," he said, citing also the "From Here to Eternity" beach scene.

In addition to his one-night appearance at Memorial Hall, Waters a print exhibited for the duration of the Biennial: "Inga #3," 1994, a film strip / photobooth-like series of black and white C-prints. Regarding his next upcoming art show (he's represented by Marianne Boesky Gallery), Waters hinted at his direction with a pseudo-Wildean pronouncement: "There is only one obscenity left in the art world: celebrity" — and he'll have to figure out how best to dispense his. Meanwhile, he even had some advice for the young collector: "I believe you should buy art you hate before it ends up hating you." Amen.

— Anneliese Cooper (@DawnDavenport)

(Photo: [FotoFocusCincinnati/Instagram](#))

Tags: [Anneliese Cooper](#), [FotoFocus](#), [John Waters](#)