

Photography and Psychoanalysis-The Life and Work of Diane Arbus

Joseph R. Silvio, M.D.

Diane Arbus is considered one of the most important photographers of the 20th century. Many of her portraits of unusual subjects such as dwarfs, nudists, twins, children, inmates with intellectual disability, and teenage couples are iconic. Despite her great success, she suffered from chronic depression which she sought to relieve through several obsessive pursuits, notably her work as a photographer and complicated sexual explorations. She died by suicide while in psychoanalysis. This brief presentation will explore her personal history for clues to her emotional and artistic life.