

ON THE COVER

AA1133 (Rothko) by Alan D. Entin

This article is based on a video interview on April 26, 2023, with the artist, and related written materials.

Many of us have had the experience of viewing a beautiful sunrise or sunset from an airplane and wondered if it would work to take a picture of the vista from 35,000 ft. Mostly, the answer tends to be that the photo is not nearly as impressive as the experienced view itself, the focus is soft, and the thick glass and dirty window mar the outcome. Not so with the picture featured on the cover of this issue of *American Psychologist*!

Alan D. Entin, PhD, is a psychologist in private practice in Richmond, Virginia, and an accomplished photographer who has had many curated exhibitions and covers for journals and books in psychology. His work integrating photography and psychology was recognized by receipt of the Rosalie G. Weiss Award from the American Psychological Foundation and Divisions 29 and 42 of the American Psychological Association.

The picture for this issue was taken from a window seat on a flight (AA1133) from Dallas, Texas, to Richmond, Virginia, last fall using an advanced compact point-and-shoot style camera with some editing to the digital file to increase the intensity of the colors. The picture succeeds in capturing the seemingly endless vista from the perspective unique to being in the skies and the remarkable richness of the bands of color in the setting sun.

Entin believes that every picture should be personal and reflect a unique point of view. In the case of *AA1133 (Rothko)*, Entin was returning home from the memorial service for a close friend of his family, someone he had known for at least 50 years who had died during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout her life, their friend experienced a number of chronic physical challenges as well as psychosocial difficulties. Entin found her to be a remarkably resilient and optimistic person and inspirational as someone who overcame hardships with grace and hope. The second part of the title pays tribute to Mark Rothko and his well-known abstract paintings; art may evoke emotion with the use of broad open space and zones of color. The photograph reflects Entin's contemplation

over a lost friend and the possibilities for art to express these feelings and promote healing.

Entin was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, moving to Chicago in high school when his father got a new job there. He completed his AB, MA, and PhD (in Human Development) at the University of Chicago, followed by predoctoral internship training at the University of Illinois Neuropsychiatric Institute. At Chicago, Entin was influenced by William E. Henry and Samuel Beck and their emphases on emotional development across the life span. He subsequently completed postdoctoral training at the University of Wisconsin with Carl Whittaker, specializing in family therapy. He then joined the faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University and had the opportunity to work with Murray Bowen in the Department of Psychiatry. The Bowenian approach to family therapy applied systems theory to understand the family as an emotional unit whose connectedness, or disconnectedness, defined the interactions and well-being of all its members. Entin applies a Bowenian lens to looking at family photographs and is a pioneer in incorporating the examination of photographs in psychotherapy.

What in particular influenced Entin's development as a photographer and psychologist? Two uncles figure prominently. One uncle gave him a book about photography when he was 12 years old, which propelled his interest in this art form and in appreciating how photographs could tell stories and document history. A second uncle's life might be considered a family secret, with Entin's personal search for his uncle a lifelong process of understanding the impact of trauma on individuals and families. Although his parents did not talk about this uncle, Entin has unraveled the story of his involvement in labor strikes in New York City in the 1930s and his decision to fight (and ultimately die) in the Spanish Civil War in an effort to support democracy and fight fascism. The importance of recognizing uncomfortable truths and integrating them into our lives and our families is a hallmark of Entin's work.

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Art Editor