

When we do work that involves the documenting of indigent people, we will likely end up being proud for having addressed an important topic, showing the audience the unfortunate circumstances these people live in, and thereby having aided the people in need in a much more valuable way even than donating. They benefit from the creation of this artwork, from our calling attention to their situation, don't they?

Rare are the occasions in which we question, whether it is really them who actually benefit from it, rather than us. Us, who are praised and lauded for having created a relevant artwork, a significant masterpiece, an important statement. May our pride not possibly be based on our own achievement? An achievement we were only capable of accomplishing thanks to the poverty, to the indigence of the portrayed people.

Is it not vanity that makes us try to justify the sometimes ruthless exposure of indigent people by persuading ourselves and the world that our captivating piece of work actually helps them, and is hence much more important than their keeping their dignity? We are vain, as we aspire to create good work, successful work. Art that matters. Spectacular, dramatic images.