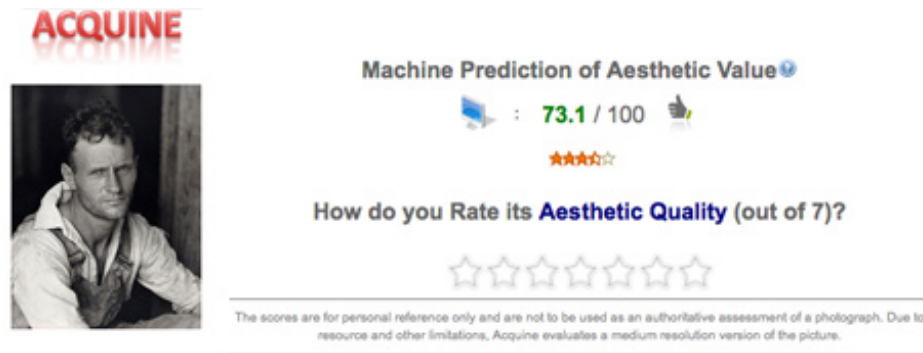


Thumbs up Walker Evans! Sorry Diane Arbus!

Posted At : May 15, 2009 3:11 PM | Posted By : Rixon Reed

Related Categories: Picture Rating Systems, Rixon Reed



The screenshot shows the ACQUINE interface. On the left is a small thumbnail of a black and white portrait of Walker Evans. To the right, the text reads "Machine Prediction of Aesthetic Value" followed by a score of "73.1 / 100" and a thumbs-up icon. Below this is a star rating of four stars. The text "How do you Rate its Aesthetic Quality (out of 7)?" is followed by seven empty star icons. At the bottom, a disclaimer states: "The scores are for personal reference only and are not to be used as an authoritative assessment of a photograph. Due to resource and other limitations, Acquine evaluates a medium resolution version of the picture."

Our bookstore staffer Ben Lerman pointed me to this new picture rating system just announced by Penn State University.

"An online photo-rating system developed at Penn State is the first publicly available tool for automatically determining the aesthetic value of an image, according to a Penn State researcher involved with the project."

[Read more](#)

Now you can upload an image and have a computer instantly "read it" and then "rate it" based on its or more accurately, the programmed picture aesthetic.

We tried the service by uploading an FSA Walker Evans portrait and a Diane Arbus iconic image. Evans passed with flying colors (73.1/100), but the Diane Arbus portrait of the twins (the classic cover image of her Aperture monograph) didn't fare so well (22/100).

In computer thy trust.