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Goldin: The Beauty Of A Fractured Mind.

Nan Goldin was a brilliant photographer heavily influenced by the trauma of her past. She was a woman who grew up in a family that had high expectations of her academically, but the parents did not provide a nurturing environment. Goldin's sister, Barbara, who suffered from mental illness did not receive the proper attention from her parents, this led to her suicide. Goldin, who cited her sister to be a source of emotional support, was distraught at the news of her sister taking her own life. This led to Goldin defying her parents by getting kicked out of schools and eventually moving out at an early age. She soon got caught up in the world of abusive relationships, drug addiction, and getting involved with shady characters. However through those many obstacles, she managed to make a very prosperous career out of photography.

Susan Fletcher, a performer, who met Goldin at the age of fourteen recalled that the girl loved to record the lives of her friends and subjects through visual journals. She drew the conclusion that Goldin did this as a coping mechanism to help her deal with her loss of her sister. I agree with this assessment from what I have read, since it seemed like Goldin never properly mourned for her sister. Goldin did not find the closure from her absent parents and the broken home they created, she simply rebelled to the point where she thought there was nothing else left for her to do but move on. She was barely even a teenager when she left, with so much raw emotions that were never addressed and no one else in this world she felt she could rely on. The drugs addiction,

domestic abuse, and unhealthy relationships all stemmed from the little girl who never got to be a kid.

In a strange way, I believe that the trauma that Goldin went through at such an early age was probably responsible for her creativity and later recognition. The painter of the infamous "The Scream", Edvard Munch, battled psychosis and bipolar disorder his whole life. He stated that even the inspiration for one of his most famous painting was a manic episode he had which brought him absolute terror and sadness. Vincent Van Gogh ,painter of Starry Night, was plagued by depression and suicidal thoughts to the point that he ended his own life. Though it hasn't been proven, there seems to be this connection between abstract creativity and "fractured minds". I believe it is due to these people not seeing the world through the lense that is considered normal, they express a part of themselves that someone else won't be able to completely understand unless you are put in their position. Goldin's trauma and loss probably is similar and triggered within her what the general perceives as talent and creativity.