

Artist Statement

The subject matter of my work has grown out of an obsession with the natural world. Natural elements, be they a copse of trees, or a curve of hill, often fade to the expected idyllic scene, a common and overwrought image, if left to their own devices. To transcend an otherwise predictable experience, I rely on deliberately formal composition and bold visuals.

I am strongly attracted to the use of color. Rather than fight a losing battle (in trying to tone this down to 'normal' proportions), I have chosen to embrace this tendency and instead work with it. I crank up the polarizing filter to maximize the contrast of a bright sunny day. I also try to isolate particular details, and heighten their importance through reduction of other distracting elements.

When photographing, I wander and let the landscape speak. Shape, composition, and color are the underlying elements of my photographs. Complexity is built by layering these three, yet simplicity is achieved through a balance of each. My work is as much about enhancing a particular detail within an image as it is about distilling it to its simplest, purest form.

Process

All of my images are taken with a Hasselblad medium format camera, and all images are film-based. Compared to the size of a 35mm-sized negative, the medium format film I use is 2 ¼ inches by 2 ¼ inches (or 6cm x 6 cm), which results in square images. Images are scanned from the original image and then printed digitally on archival paper using pigmented inks. While a few images are originally from negatives, the majority of my work, and all current images I take, are from transparencies.