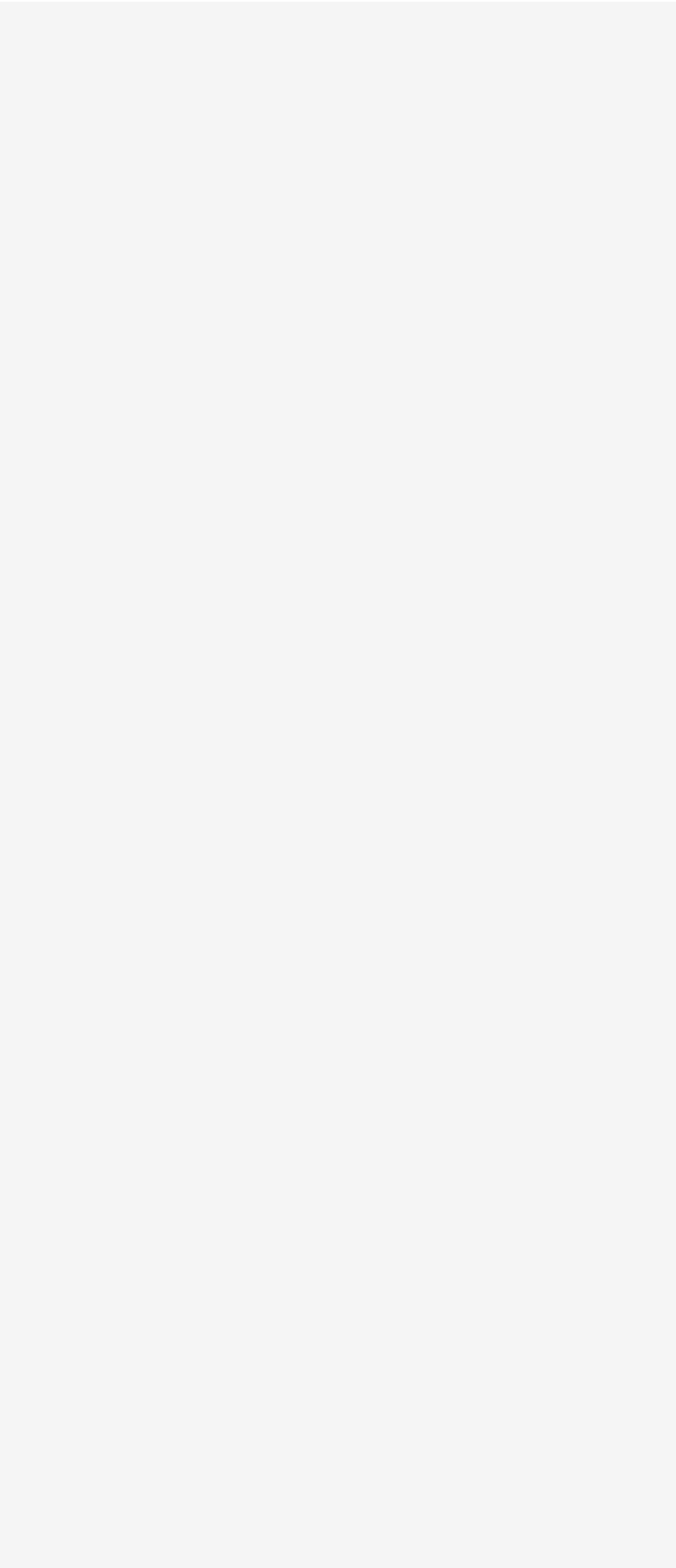


Poetic – Series Category by Dale M Reid









PROJECT TITLE

Poetic

SUBMISSION CATEGORY

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ARTIST WEBSITE

www.dalemreidphotography.com

ARTIST LOCATION

Toronto, Canada

Portfolio Feedback

Hi, Dale

Thank you for sharing your work with us. I chose your submission not only because of its high quality and artistic value but also because you have managed to create challenging images that transform reality with a totally realistic approach. I mean that despite the fact that the depicted mushrooms are perfectly focused and lighted, and every detail is clearly visible, they have a dose of abstraction that makes them open to more than one interpretation. Actually, the use of a so detailed depiction and the sophisticated lighting help unnoticed or even unseen features of the texture and form of the mushrooms to emerge transforming them into alien creatures or deformed faces or even rocks or corals or other sea life forms. It depends on the viewer's imagination to use his own memories and experiences to build content. In any case, the created creatures, life forms, or faces are not beautiful or cute but rough, strange, and weird, and this fact could be seen as a metaphor to speak about other abstract notions connected for example with people's diversity, uniqueness, and unusual identities that are not easily accepted and approached in the society. In my opinion, the metaphorical character of the project is what gives it a poetic identity and I believe you have to highlight it through the project statement.

We see here not an objective description of reality but your subjective view of it and this fact makes your work subjective and increases its authenticity. Looking at the images as a whole we can see your creative mind and learn things about you. It seems that you have already made your visual style visible, you have a consistent artistic approach, and you know how to highlight the surrealistic dimension of reality. You look for the exceptional in the ordinary and you know how to make it visible by investing in the technique, the atmosphere, the abstraction, and the ambiguity of images. We could say that you are a thoughtful, determined, conscious, and hardworking person with a restless spirit who loves challenges and does not afraid to explore herself and the world around her through her art. You are also a perfectionist who wants to control everything inside the frame through careful and minimal compositions.

All images are perfectly executed and composed as I have already told you. You are an expert in this field so I do not have something more to say. Regarding the building of the series, the greater danger in a project like this is repetition because it can demystify the narrative. Every image has to have a unique identity and also has to transform reality successfully. So, a careful selection and a small number of images are the best decisions in works like this. In the submitted series, you have managed to avoid repetitions as every depicted mushroom has a different form. However, in some cases, we realize that we see the same kind of mushroom (oyster) as in images 6 and 8. Of course, this fact does not affect the quality and meaning of the series but shows that the number of images is more than enough.

Regarding your question about the project description, I believe that you need to take your time, reflect on your images and the above thoughts and clarify what is the meaning of this project for you and define its metaphorical character. This way you will make the project

statement clear and to the point showing the reason that led you to create this series and what you wanted to say through it. You can see the poetry of the creation and make it the title of the project but you have not realized what is your connection with it and you have not explained it in the project statement. It is useful to connect the title with the project statement by somehow explaining its use. I know that is not easy to take a distance from your work and see it from the outside especially if your response to the subject matter is spontaneous but when an external viewer gives you a reason to do it, the rest is easier. (I hope). Have in mind that the support of the project statement is important for work like yours and the definition of your connection with the theme can move it beyond a collection of still life nature images with high artistic quality and gives it a kind of autobiographical story helping its subjective character to emerge.

Dale, you have the talent, the motivation, and the skills to create remarkable personal work and make it widely known if you continue working with the same passion, leave yourself to be visible in your work (I speak metaphorically), support it properly, and invest in storytelling as regards the building of a series. Stay faithful to your concerns and beliefs, show your personal view on reality, and never follow trends and likes. Only personal and sincere works can resist time and win a more permanent acceptance. And only a consistent photographer leaves his mark.

As you understand, my job is to help you see your work critically and not just tell you how amazing your images are because this is not enough. I hope you agree.

Overall, my engagement with your work was an exciting and pleasant experience. Be sure I will show your project to my students for many reasons. I wish you good luck, and I'm looking forward to seeing more from you in the future.

All the best

See below for some useful recommendations.

Artist Bio

“Contemporary fine art photographer Dale M Reid took charge of her destiny by making a commitment to herself and her life partner and soulmate. Reid's belief in herself has allowed her to chart a new course in life as a full-time professional artist and transgender woman. As Dale transitioned through her new life journey, she developed technical skills, questioned convention, trusted her instincts, and with her passion, was able to craft a distinctive artistic voice. Her artwork ranges from classical to sensual to erotic and engages the viewer to question what they see. ”

Project Statement

“Oyster, lobster, shiitake, and pine mushrooms captured my imagination. My creative vision uses their bizarre and varied shape, alien textures and intricate detail combined with composition and lighting skills to present an abstract view that will engage the art collector's and enthusiast's imagination. Numbering images sequentially allows the viewer to form their own interpretation.

Utilizing the depth and warmth of silver gelatin prints, I bring to life the elegant and sensual mushroom images.

I have taken a minimalist presentation against a square black background not to distract from the images powerful poetic voice.

While it has been said that my mushroom images are reminiscent of Edward Weston's "Bell Pepper" series. I continue to develop my own artistic approach with subjects selected based on what speaks to me emotionally. While the artistic style has evolved to echo that of the Group f/64, I continue to experiment with different approaches, presenting new and innovative artwork. ”

Additional Recommendations

Recommended Books & Photographers

- ♦ [My Dakota \(Rebecca Norris Webb\)](#)
- ♦ [Sleeping by the Mississippi \(Alec Soth\)](#)
- ♦ [Crisis by Elinor Carucci](#)
- ♦ [Genesis \(Sebastiao Salgado\)](#)
- ♦ [The House I Once Called Home \(Duane Michals\)](#)
- ♦ [Carpe Fucking Diem \(Elina Brotherus\)](#)
- ♦ [Alexi Titarenko](#)
- ♦ [Thatcher Cook](#)

Photo Competitions

- ♦ [LensCulture Visual Storytelling Awards](#)
- ♦ [LensCulture Art Photography Awards](#)
- ♦ [Smithsonian Photo Contest](#)
- ♦ [Julia Margaret Cameron Award for Women Photographers](#)
- ♦ [LensCulture B&W Photography Awards](#)

Recommendations for Gaining Exposure

- ♦ [Sun Magazine](#)
- ♦ [LensCulture Guide to Career Building Exposure](#)
- ♦ [Gomma Magazine](#)
- ♦ [Zeke Magazine](#)
- ♦ [Self Publish Be Happy](#)
- ♦ [A Women's Thing Magazine](#)

Other Resources

- ♦ [How to Approach a Gallery: Advice from the Director of Von Lintel](#)
- ♦ [The Art of Photography: An Approach to Personal Expression](#)
- ♦ [A Manifesto to Self-Publishing Your Own Photobooks](#)
- ♦ [The Practical Art World: Suggestions for Writing your Artist's Statement](#)
- ♦ [Arno Rafael Minkkinen](#)
- ♦ [American Surfaces](#)
- ♦ [Ralph Eugene Meatyard](#)

New Recommendations

- ♦ [Modern Women: Women Artists At The Museum Of Modern Art](#)

Books (monographs)

- ♦ [The Photograph as Contemporary Art \(Charlotte Cotton\)](#)
- ♦ [Ways of Seeing \(John Berger\)](#)
- ♦ [Southern Landscapes \(Sally Mann\)](#)
- ♦ [Mythologies \(Roland Barthes\)](#)
- ♦ [Ballad of Sexual Dependency \(Nan Goldin\)](#)
- ♦ [Pictures from Home \(Larry Sultan\)](#)
- ♦ [Immediate Family \(Sally Mann\)](#)
- ♦ [Photography and Philosophy: Essays on the Pencil of Nature \(Scott Walden\)](#)

Books (fine art philosophy & criticism)

- ♦ [Why People Photograph \(Robert Adams\)](#)
- ♦ [On Photography \(Susan Sontag\)](#)
- ♦ [Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography \(Roland Barthes\)](#)
- ♦ [Doing Documentary Work \(Robert Coles\)](#)
- ♦ [Photography and Surrealism](#)
- ♦ [Minutes to Midnight \(Trent Parke\)](#)
- ♦ [Towards a Philosophy of Photography \(Vilém Flusser\)](#)
- ♦ [Paradise \(Thomas Struth\)](#)
- ♦ [Why Photographs Work \(George Barr\)](#)

Books (thematic collections)

- ♦ [Masters of Light: Conversations with Contemporary Cinematographers](#)
- ♦ [Subway Portraits \(Walker Evans\)](#)
- ♦ [Twilight \(Gregory Crewdson\)](#)
- ♦ [Uncommon Places \(Stephen Shore\)](#)

Photo Competitions (general & other)

- ♦ [Aperture Portfolio Prize](#)
- ♦ [Voies Off Prize](#)
- ♦ [Aperture Foundation Photobook Awards](#)
- ♦ [Smithsonian Photo Contest](#)

- ♦ [Leica Oskar Barnack Award](#)

Photo Competitions (PJ & documentary)

- ♦ [Lenculture Photography Awards](#)

Photo Festivals & Events (Europe)

- ♦ [Paris Photo](#)
- ♦ [PhotoLondon](#)
- ♦ [PhotoEspaña](#)
- ♦ [Athens Photo Festival](#)
- ♦ [Nordic Light International Festival of Photography Portfolio Reviews](#)
- ♦ [Copenhagen Photo Festival](#)

Photo Festivals & Events (rest of the world)

- ♦ [Tokyo Photo Competition](#)
- ♦ [Hong Kong International Photo Festival](#)
- ♦ [Photo Israel](#)

Outlets for Exposure

- ♦ [Flak Photo](#)
- ♦ [Phases Magazine](#)

Photo Business & Practice Resources

- ♦ [F-Stop Magazine](#)
- ♦ [Shots Magazine](#)
- ♦ [How to build narrative ideas for a photo series](#)
- ♦ [On Statements \(Jörg M. Colberg\)](#)
- ♦ [How to create a photo essay](#)
- ♦ [The Photographer's Guide to Publishing Photo Books](#)

Books (PJ and documentary philosophy and criticism)

- ♦ [Why Photography Matters \(Michael Fried\)](#)
- ♦ [Photography and Anthropology \(Christopher Pinney\)](#)
- ♦ [Girl on Girl: Art and Photography in the Age of the Female Gaze](#)

Books (business & practice of art & photography)

- ◆ Crusade For Your Art