

PICTURE PERFECT

WORDS: Fergus McShane
PHOTOS: Rolfe Horn



'Art is an expression of life that transcends both time and space. We must explore our own souls through art to give a new form and a new meaning to the nature of the world. There is a certain point in time, where the harmony of light, atmosphere, and spirit collide, a place in the cosmos where the rhythm of nature unfolds in front of the camera. This can only happen once.'

Rolfe Horn

These are the spirited words of Rolfe Horn in reference to his own art form, photography. And given the high esteem in which he holds his chosen medium, it is obvious why he pushes himself to capture such powerful images. But where did it all start for the photographer?

'I bought my first camera at a garage sale when I was eight years old', explains Rolfe. 'I was fascinated with the camera and the photos it would produce. When

I was 14, I rediscovered photography. I initially wanted to photograph my friends doing stunts on their skateboards, then after I built a darkroom when I was 15 I really got into black and white and began photographing the landscape as well.'

It is in the field of landscape photography that Rolfe's portfolio quite literally shines. His somewhat nomadic work has taken him all around his Californian base, up through the Pacific

Northwest and even to the far-flung reaches of Japan and wider Asia, where he has captured a stunning series of natural images.

When asked about his photographic intentions, Rolfe replies 'I want to try to make extraordinary images of ordinary scenes, so the person by looking at one of my photos is taken away from their present reality and drawn into another place through the photograph.' And in »»»



'I want to try to make extraordinary images of ordinary scenes.'

previous pages (from left to right)
Wedded Rocks (study 3), Pinnacle Cove (study 1), Nevoso
Alberi (study 1), Along Huckleberry Path (study 14).

from left to right
Headland Cove (study 1), Along Huckleberry Path (study 58), Snow
Monkeys (study 2), House of Vestal Virgins (study 2).

looking at any of his work it is certainly easy to get drawn in.

The captivating way Rolfe brings out light and darkness during his photographic process means that he produces surreal and even spectral images. The photographs entitled 'Along Huckleberry Path' and 'Point Lobos' are a beautiful portrayal of

this unearthly quality. Rolfe describes his process as a variation of the 'zone system' first introduced by Ansel Adams, where he lightens and darkens areas in order to 'balance out the tonality of the final print'.

This chiaroscuro of the black and white photos helps to evoke a certain emotion from all of Rolfe's work that

viewers can extract for themselves. 'I feel that photography is amazing because of the power to capture something that is very difficult for humans to see', says Rolfe. 'It freezes a moment or a series of moments into a single idea. Photography allows us to see things we can't normally see. That is very powerful.'

Rolfe Horn's photography is shown at a number of galleries that can be found through his website, with a new exhibition at the San Francisco Airport Museum starting in September. ☺

Rolfe Horn
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