

# FEATURED

## RAFAL MALESZYK



*Rain Is Coming*

"Island life teaches me how to slow down and see every little detail of nature."

AN: Please introduce yourself. Where do you live?

RM: My name is Rafal Maleszyk. I was born in Poland but have lived in many places such as, Norway, The Netherlands, Spain and Austria. I now live in Oahu, Hawaii.

AN: When and how did you get into photography?

RM: I have been using photography to record my travels as far back as I can remember. If I had to pick particular time or place where I started to think serious about this artistic medium, it would have to be about fifteen years ago in Palma de Mallorca, Spain. That's when I saw Sebastião Salgado's exhibition, which were black and white portraits of children. I must say this was the very first moment when I felt the powerful beauty of large black-and-white photograph.

AN: Did you have any formal training in photography?

RM: I took a class in the Centro Estudio Fotograficos in Palma de Mallorca and one in the college of Marin in California. I have read a lot

of books and experimented with different techniques before I found what suits me best.

AN: What inspires you?

RM: Nature, travels and the ocean are what inspire me most. In today's world we are distracted daily, we have too many options in our lives and we often forget about what really matters. Artists have been searching for a way to express their vision of the world, but in today's world just to focus and find time for creation without distraction is hard. I believe that simplicity can be very powerful. Art is not just another factory where things are rushed, art requires dedication and time. Island life teaches me how to slow down and see every little detail of nature.

AN: Who are your influences?

RM: Every artist foolishly thinks his art is unique and original, so do I. Everyone can decide whose influences they see in my work for themselves, I am not able to see this. I know that my favorite black and white artist is M.C. Escher; I think a true artist is Vincent Van Gogh. I also like Joan Miró's work a lot.



*Black Nanakuli*

AN: How would you describe your art?

RM: Limited edition fine art black and white landscapes. I have always felt a desire to create. I have used different mediums such as: acrylic, wood or stone—all that have helped me to discover what works in my art today.

AN: Please tell us about a memorable experience while on a shoot.

RM: There are stories almost every time I go out, photographing nature is very unpredictable. Most of the time I set my mind on photographing the ocean and come back with trees. A lot of times I walk in rain and mud without hope, just to discover the best location and lighting.

One of the recent stories is a little bit more powerful. I have been working on my *Plastic Landscapes* series. This is a new project I have started in 2011 where I incorporate plastic in the landscape. This is very different from what I have been doing so far. Every location needs work and studios preparation. I alter the landscape not by composition, lens, darkroom or digital manipulation. I place plastic on different elements of my landscape. One evening photographing the

remote beach on the west side of Oahu, a young girl approached me and asked: “Why are you doing this?” I replied with a question: “Why do you think?” She replied, “I don’t know, but it looks cool!” I said. “I do not know why I do it—I know one thing for sure, I enjoy doing it and it does look interesting, different and connects me with the rest of the landscape.”

That girl reminded me what art is about, not just producing something for a purpose, not just another product carefully designed for the market, a product that fits the economic rules or political times. True art is created out of passion and joy. I have recently read about an artist who said: “When I create my art I do not have to please anyone.” I agree with it completely and think this is what sets us free and helps us create unique pieces. This is valid in any form of art; it can very well be the art of surfing the wave, or dance where nothing can be done wrong as long as you have fun doing it.

AN: Tell us more about your *Plastic Landscape* series.

RM: I think this is very unique idea where I change the landscape by incorporating plastic



*Bodi*

depending on the location, light, the strength and direction of the wind, tide and the size of the swell. It is a new approach to my landscape where I can show the Hawaiian breeze on black and white paper. To show the air in a photograph is something very hard to do. I believe that in my *Plastic Landscape* series, you can really see the air and I think I am the only one in the world who is doing this kind of thing.

AN: What are your plans for 2012?

RM: I will be producing an 'edition of one.' I would like to offer a unique piece of art that will be produced only a single time. That ensures you are getting a unique photograph only for

yourself, a photograph that no one else will have. As far as my artistic work, I do not plan anything; this is why I love photography and art. I can do anything at anytime, without rules or restrictions, I can be fully free. ♥

**More at: [rafalmaleszyk.com](http://rafalmaleszyk.com)**



*Flat Black*





*Ocean Wedding Veil*



*Old Pier Dressed*



*Hawaiian Calmness*



*Pale Laie*





*Rocky Beach*



*Skinny*



*Moon Mood*



*Sea Breeze Flags*





*Reflect*