

Rafal Maleszyk

Plastic Scapes

“Inhabiting a time-hungry world of fleeting moments and experiences, simplicity is a precious state best captured and experienced under the lens,” explained Rafal about his passion for photography. His aim as a photographer is to create sophisticated art by simplifying the image. Photography allows him to express his innermost experiences with nature and convey intimate and rare spectacles that he has the privilege to witness and then record.

Rafal was born into a big Polish family, and grew up in Skawce, southern Poland. He spent his childhood and teenage years in post communist Poland where resources and opportunities were scarce. His journey with photography began on his fourteenth birthday when he received a 35mm Kiev camera as a gift for Holy Communion. Making use of some old darkroom equipment, his father helped him set up a work area in the family kitchen where he made his very first black and white prints. Rafal wanted to explore the world and on leaving school travelled widely across Europe, Scandinavia and the Mediterranean. For a short period he worked for a German artist in Majorca as a stone sculpture apprentice; where he developed a heightened sensitivity towards textures and form. His defining moment happened when he was visiting the exhibition of Sebastiao Salgado, and was entranced with a set of black and white photographs of children from all over the world. He was so overwhelmed by the intrinsic language of photography and its potency as an art form that he decided there and then that photography would be his lifelong passion. Purchasing a 35 mm Nikon he enrolled in a photography course in Palma de Majorca at the Centro de Estudios Fotograficos.

When he moved to the US he studied photography and painting at the College of Marin in California. The training in fine art has helped to shape his craft of composition and experimentation. The classes inspired Rafal to experiment with composition, art techniques and the use of light.

Oahu, a small island near Hawaii, is now his home as he identifies closely with the culture where artists, respect for nature, family and community life are highly valued. On this island, other than photography, he is able to serve the community through using his craftsmanship in wood-making, creating quality timber furniture, stairs and floors. For the past seven years, he has worked in his own business, Da Vinci Floors, as a hardwood floor installer. His masterpiece was to design and build a contemporary, environmentally friendly, ocean-facing luxury home in the heart of Honolulu. Made with eco-friendly bamboo, this home design with an LEED eco-rating has demonstrated his artistic capabilities across a range of disciplines.

After 12 long years of hard work Rafal has developed professionally as a fine art photographer, specializing in large prints using a digital medium format Hasselblad H3D. His travels have always been intimately related to photography ventures and projects. His passion and excitement when confronted with stunning imagery of the countryside and the myriad ways one can capture the sun, the mountains, the lakes, the snow and oceanic landscapes compels him to record and interpret these visual experiences. His photographic portfolio covers landscapes from many countries including Poland, USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Savador and Hawaii.

Every day Rafal has a strong desire to walk in the forest and find an interesting tree or rock, and then watch and wait for a ray of light that will make a difference in his frame. For him it is a continual exploration

to capture the speed of the wind and the ocean, the movement of trees, the contrast of sand, or the texture of a rock. He cannot live without the beautiful spectacles nature displays every second of every day. It is like a race, and if he doesn't photograph the beauty of nature in that instant then all will be lost and he will lose the race. Immersing himself and becoming united with nature and allowing nature to naturally give up its own perspective, light or composition, capturing that mood and moment is when the image becomes exceptional. Rafal is incredulous that intelligent humans naively believe they are in control of everything.

There are many forms of art; art has been part of human existence since the beginning of time. Each individual artist has a persistent inner voice whispering to look for something different, to improve, to shock or to create beauty; photography is just one of the new mediums to communicate the expression of culture. As part of his own goal to develop his own distinctive style and interpretation of nature he started in 2011 to incorporate plastic in his landscapes. By using long exposures to record ocean-scapes, there was a sense of excitement, because he was not entirely in control of how the sensor recorded the scenes; the motion of ocean, wind, waves and plastic produces unpredictable effects. In his plastic-scapes wind plays a huge role combined with the reflection of light on the plastic. The plastic is a metaphor for the disrespect by humans for their surroundings. Pollution by humans around the planet cannot be sustained and the plastic-scapes are a way Rafal can highlight the beauty of nature juxtaposed against the insidious waste discarded so carelessly by society. He has opened a new door in his journey with fine art photography. Photography continues to surprise him with its limitless opportunities and freedom from boundaries.

View more of his work at www.rafalmaleszyk.com



Deck Belize

Black Nanakuli



Bodi

Old Pier Dressed



Skinny



Flat Black



Ocean Wedding Veil

Tree



Three Tree Single

Silky Bench



Three Tree Duet

Pale Laie Hawaii



Sea Breeze Flags