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Time

This notion of time is a reference point that allows us as humans to communicate with each other by marking events in the past, present and future. We use our concept of time to place events in sequence one after the other, to compare how long an event lasts, and to tell when an event occurs. But what is *time* and why are homo sapiens the only species on this planet that measure it and live by it? We can say a working definition of *time* is a linear sequence of moments. But as I write, are you not experiencing the past, present and future from word to word, photograph to photograph, breathe to breathe? We follow “it” as an arrow of time, it has a starting point and an end point, it flows in a certain direction to a final destination.

This series of photographs marks a time in my life where I have been searching for balance by exploring technology, process, craft, light, chance and art. I am approaching a mark in time, my own set mark in time, where I have been making pinhole photographs. I know that range of time, but do you? A subset of that time is the length of exposure on 4 x 5 inch black and white sheet film, from a few seconds as I point the hole of the camera to the sun, to lengthy minutes of time as I explore the underside of a forest canopy.

I read that the first counting systems were created by the Mesopotamians over 7,000 years ago. They developed the idea of “place value” - the notion that where you put something has meaning. The “1” to the left of “0” means “10”. Mesopotamians kept track of their numbers using the human body - 12 knuckles on one hand could be counted 5 times - by the 5 fingers on the other hand. Creating the Sexagesimal Number System - “60” - we still use today - 60 seconds, 60 minutes... time. We reference our lives by our bodies in a place at a time.

I have decided to point my camera at the society I live in, the environment I have traveled to. Whether you like the results or not, many times it is the journey I am taking that means more to me than the resulting photograph. Traveling in the landscape alone, I can get lost in time but that does not really matter when you are alone.

What really makes us human, and me a person is that I celebrate these moments in the time in my life and document those events, these events that are presented in this series of work. You can look at them for the sheer beauty that I did not see when I took the photographs. I do not see this way, in black and white and with long periods of time captured and preserved photographically in one place. There is delayed gratification in this photographic process that takes time, from travel, to set up and exposure, to more travel, film processing, film scanning, digital editing, digital printing and finally the presentation and sharing the final results with the viewer.

I have occupied a bit of your time now and want you to move on and think about the past, present and future you are about to have and make every one of them important, for there is only so much to go around, or is there?

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