

WATERSHED

SEPT 19 - NOV 3 2008

MICHAEL TARDIOLI



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Photography has a potential to describe so much: the richness of tone, the sensual form and exquisiteness of things, but there is never any final and absolute explanation in the image we stare at. Whatever the image reveals - dramatization of the innermost sensuality, fragilities of the unique human experience or the opulence of a scenery - this revelation is always both fragmentary and temporal, inherent in the very core of photography.

I consider myself more of a printmaker than a photographer. I never seem to react to that perfect photographic moment - instead compositions are invented well before the shoot. Deliberate, my photographs are usually without spontaneity and generally without any emotional content.

In this early work, I begin to dehumanize my subjects and to photograph them for their geometry, shape, tonal balance and other unexpressed elements of significance to me. Though not what I would consider a strong image, this portrait is significant because it was the first photograph I produced in which I felt had total control.

In my works I strive for the sensual satisfaction of a well-balanced composition and desired tonality. Each work is an entity, which has a far greater physical presence than any solid object could possibly have because it has the power to suggest that it doesn't exist.

In this new piece, analogue captures exists in tandem with new digital mediums to produce essentially the same photograph. Warm gray palettes usually produced with silver are replaced with pigment dyes. Now more than ever total control is in my grasp. Funny though, now more than ever I wish had less control.

BIOGRAPHY

For almost 20 years, Michael Tardioli has been a professional, award-winning photographer in the Ottawa region. During this time he developed new techniques in printmaking to enhance the presence of black and white photographs. The success of these techniques was made evident by the numerous prestigious commissions he received. Clients included such public figures as Mitchell Sharp, Margaret Trudeau, and Roberta Bondar, among many others. During this time a reputation developed that led to acquisitions of his work for public and permanent display at the National Archives, the National Arts Centre, and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario; the latter resulting in a published book of fine-art portraits of children.

The success he experienced as a portraiture photographer has led to two different and significant directions in his career: the development of his teaching skills and commercial photography incorporating elevated production values. Significant clients he has worked with include the Canada Council for the Arts, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Canadian Museum of Nature. His digital work has also been recognized, notably through receipt of the 2003 Canadian Applied Arts Award for his unpublished photograph of singer/songwriter Kathleen Edwards.

Tardioli's teaching career began in 2000 when he was first approached to teach a Continuing Education course in black and white photography at Algonquin College. In 2005 Michael co-founded SPAO to create an intensive photographic experience for those seeking to hone their skills or pursue an artistic or professional photographic practice.