



Matthew King

AS

Roots to Sky

Throughout my life, I've always been both fascinated and humbled by the forests around me.

Fascinated by the sounds, the smells, the shapes, the colours and, in particular the textures one observes when one simply takes a walk in the woods. And humbled by the age and quiet power of the trees and, in some cases, their aged remnants.

Forests can be challenging to photograph - the contrasts between light and dark can be extreme, the light can be quite dim, and colours can be both muted and skewed toward a particular hue.

I chose the medium of black and white film and black and white photographic paper to create these photographs because of their technical flexibility as well as their capacity to communicate in the abstract, while still fairly representing the literal. Also because, together, they are the medium with which I am most comfortable communicating.

The photographs in this exhibit use textures to hint at the tremendous variety that can be found in the forest. They use variation of light to give a sense of the forest's range. They use shadow and darkness to communicate mood and strength and power. And they use small changes of image tone and colour to suggest how subtle the forest's beauty can be.

The prints themselves originated from my own black and white film negatives. They are individually printed optically, by hand, on light sensitive photographic paper - sometimes now referred to as "Silver Gelatin" paper. The prints were then toned for both enhancement of image colour and enhanced longevity. They have been reversibly mounted on high quality mat board for protection and quality of display purposes.

Individual hand made, matted prints of these photographs are available for sale.