



THE MOMENT ETERNAL

Photographs by Bret Culp and Paintings by Julie McGregor

October 28 – November 19, 2008 Reception – October 30, 6 – 9pm

"Things are either emerging out of nothingness or disappearing into nothingness. It is impermanence that gives transcendence and true meaning to the world. When we accept the transitory nature of all existence we can better appreciate the fleeting pleasures of the world without anxiety for their end. The photographs in this collection capture lyrical instances of a world in constant change revealing a beauty seemingly removed from everyday life, satisfying longed for moments in time." – Bret Culp

"The soul cannot thrive without expression and art cannot breathe without soul." – Julie McGregor

Bret Culp's iconic new black and white photographs convey the beauty of impermanence, the central theme of his work. Through his diverse travels Bret seeks scenes of a transitory nature. From the ruins of Ireland, to a 9,000 year old cave town in southern Italy, to the mist-covered hills of Tuscany during the harvest; his images are poetically realised and akin to scenes from a film. It should then not be a surprise that Bret is also a Director and award-winning Visual Effects Supervisor, most recently acting as the second unit director on 'The Tudors'. Bret employs a unique textural printing method which adds to the atmosphere and mystique of his work.

Bret regularly lectures on developing personal artistic vision, a subject he is passionate about. He has shown in galleries and museums across Canada, the United States and abroad; such as The Tom Thomson Gallery in Owen Sound, Canada; The Center for Fine Art Photography in Fort Collins, USA; and the Masters of Photography Exhibit in Curitiba, Brazil. His work is in public and private collections. Bret is the recipient of numerous awards and honours. He has received an International Black and White Spider award for Fine Art; a ProFoto's Excellence in Imaging and Design award; an Agfa International Photo award; and inclusion in volume one of The World's Greatest Black & White Photography.

Julie McGregor's artistic career has spanned over 25 years. Upon graduating from OCA in 1984, Julie was selected for independent study in Italy where she spent a year painting landscapes, figures and portraits. Her talents were readily recognized and she was asked to work as the in-house artist for Castello di Uzzano, a Tuscan winery and ninety roomed estate. While sketching and painting the castle's gardens and surrounding countryside Julie was invited to paint the famous gardens of Vinamaggio, the magnificent villa where Mona Lisa once lived. A culmination of people, places and magical moments in time, this collection includes a selection of early Italian landscape inspirations and features new portraits in oils that capture moments of quietness and a clarity of presence. Her emotionally expressive paintings are full of vitality, brought to life with spontaneous brushwork and lively, warm colour palettes. It is interesting to note that Bret and Julie both include pieces from some of the same gardens in Tuscany.

Julie is a member of the Portrait Society of Canada. She has most recently exhibited at the Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery, the Varley Art Gallery, The Hummingbird Centre and Toronto's Arts and Letters Club. In 2005 Julie was awarded the Frameworks Foundation grand prize held at the CBC Broadcast Centre in Toronto. Frameworks presented reproductions of her winning piece to twenty prominent community figures and 400 others who attended the auction.

Bret Culp and Julie McGregor have created an intriguing dialogue of transitory memories and distant locales using the contrast of black and white photography against emotional paintings and sketches. Together they speak of the ephemeral and poetic moments in time and in doing so make them eternal.

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