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Kent Burkhardtsmeier

STILLNESS with NATURE

Orialivi Publishing

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Kent Burkhardtsmeier

STILLNESS with NATURE

Orialivi Publishing

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for those in search of solace, stillness, and peace

foreword

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–John David Longfellow –

June 2020

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preface

STILLNESS with NATURE began during the *stay-at-home phase* of the 2020 pandemic. Because I was not able to venture out into nature with my camera in hand, I began revisiting my photographic portfolio. Looking at each image, transported me back into nature where I had photographed the image. Studying the nature captured deeply touched my feelings – providing me with calmness and peacefulness. A stillness descended upon me.

Recognizing so many others were sharing a similar heightened level of anxiety, I decided to repost my images on social media. But this time I decided to include words with each image – words that spoke to me while studying the image and evoking the thoughts that spoke out to me as a means of comfort, hope, and awakening within. The poems took shape and form for each image.

Several followers shared how the postings (image and words) provided them solace and inner peace. Their words of gratitude aligned with the stillness the writing was providing for me, so continue posting each day during the pandemic confinement.

–Kent–

June 2020

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STILLNESS with NATURE

sunday sunrise

chaos all around
distracted mind
confusing patterns

.

look inward
still thyself
calmness awaits

.

seek the light
feel the energy
stay centered

.

rise
with the sun
sunrise sunday

.

[image 1 odd page]



Joshua tree

it is I
before you
arms open freely
my heart
like a bird perched
on a wire sending
notes to heaven

.

it is I
exposed and
vulnerable revealing
inner emotions through
words and pictures
like a raindrop cascading
over a cliff

.

it is I
twisted and pointed
alone standing
in the desert
casting shade like
a full moon illuminating
across the ocean

.

it is I
seeking solace
knowing I belong
celebrated as normal
for being like
first star twinkling
across time

.

It is I

.

[image 2 odd page]



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+30 *poems*

+30 photographic images

foam line

it seems, at times, we advance
only to retreat - slowly moving
beyond where we came

.

we wander forward, moving along
as we go, the future obscured
and hazy to know

.

other paths look straighter
from our vantage point but
end up being tough or uneasy

.

so we return to the path for us
moving along as we go, a future
obscured and hazy to know

.

to focus on the place at our feet
we see clearly where we are
we know this is our place

.

this spot, our path, standing now
as we go, our future obscured
and hazy to know

.

a moment where we have
presence - a mindset to choose
it is now that we understand

.

focus shifted, what matters shift,
realizing now as we go
our path was like a foam line.

[image 3 odd page]



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Photograph Information



First Blue

Huangshan, China



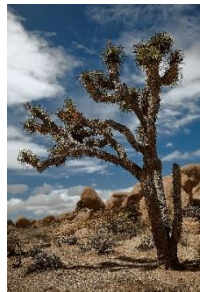
Image 6



Sunday Sunrise

Ocean Ridge, Florida
USA

Image 7



Joshua Tree

Joshua Tree National
Park, California USA

Image 8



Foam Line

Second Beach,
Washington USA

Image 9



Image 5

Image 10



First Blue

Huangshan, China



Image 17



Sunday Sunrise

Ocean Ridge, Florida
USA

Image 18



Joshua Tree

Joshua Tree National
Park, California USA

Image 19



Foam Line

Second Beach,
Washington USA

Image 20



Image 15

Image 21

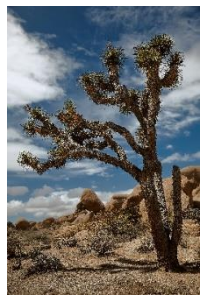


Image 16

Image 22



First Blue

Huangshan, China



Image 29



Sunday Sunrise

Ocean Ridge, Florida
USA

Image 30



Joshua Tree

Joshua Tree National
Park, California USA

Image 31



Foam Line

Second Beach,
Washington USA

Image 32

Image 27

Image 33

Image 28

Image 34

Acknowledgement

It is with a humble and gratified heart for all the support and assistance provided by so many people to enable the publication of this photographic poetry book. My editor and publisher, graphic designer, artistic consultant.

My passion and art would not be where it is today without the encouragement and comradeship with my fellow artists and mentors: Karen Colbert, Bill Rosenberg, Bob Neiman, Neal Wiseman, Donna Hixon, Larry Colby, Jon Glaser, Dale Kirk, JB Volk, Tom Rutherford, Elizabeth Murray, Allan Pearce, Alister Benn, Juanli Sun, Timm Chapman, Shane Balkowitsch, Shelley Larson, Claudia Johnstone, Britta Anderson, and Jessica Wachter.

And of course, I none of this would be possible if I didn't have the support of my extended family, Derek and Lauren (son and daughter-in-law), Britni (daughter), and my best friend and life partner – Susan.

–Kent J Burkhardtsmeier –

June 2020



About the artist

As a photographic artist, Kent's inspired by outdoor nature where he finds peace and comfort. The openness and serenity found within nature moves him - stirring emotions within act as the motivation for his photographic art and poems.

He makes images with room to meander, quiet to relax the mind, and space to ponder. They are an invitation to enter the realm within, to soothe the soul, and to experience stillness.

Kent Burkhardtsmeier's images have been featured in solo and group exhibitions in museums and galleries in USA, UK, and Cuba. Two six-image projects have been published by LensWork Publishing's *Seeing in SIXES* books. His photography work has been recognized internationally. Burkhardtsmeier's pieces reside in private collections around the world. More examples of Kent's images can be seen at KJBImages.com.

This book is his first published work of photographic inspired poetry.

Publication

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