



the**WANDERING**photographer

Stuart  
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A SELECTION OF LANDSCAPE AND FINE ART IMAGES FROM NZ

Stuart Macdonald

[www.smphotoart.co.nz](http://www.smphotoart.co.nz)

previous **publications**

nzphotoart – landscape and fine art images from New Zealand (2014)

The Obsessional Photographer (2015)

The Eclectic Photographer (2016)

Information about these books can be found at: [www.smphotoart.co.nz](http://www.smphotoart.co.nz)

# notes about wandering and discovering

## About this Book

This book is a collection of images from my wanderings around New Zealand as a landscape photographer – always seeking that new place or perfect image! It also includes other images that reflect my ‘wandering’ through the different genres of photography such as still life, social commentary and buildings. I am, as I have talked about before, an eclectic photographer, and I don’t like being tied to a particular style or genre.

The reason for this approach is that beauty and uniqueness can, after all, be found in many things... and the joy is in capturing this wherever you see it. I suppose, like many photographers or artists, this is partly about ‘seeing’ (aided in my case by holding a camera in my hand!) and partly about consciously planning. Although considerable planning can go in to photographing a new place (the light, time of the year etc...) I will admit to often going up a particular road just to see what is at the end.

In this sample of my work you will find a mixture of images encompassing:

- landscapes
- cityscapes
- fine art
- social commentary
- buildings, like churches.

Images are ‘jumbled up’ through the book. This is deliberate – my attempt to help the reader ‘see’ each image as a new experience.... As when one anticipates coming over

the brow of the hill, or round the corner – not knowing what one will see but hoping to see something new. All the images in this book are meant to say something about life and places in New Zealand – but they are just a selection – there are many more on my website – [www.smphotoart.co.nz](http://www.smphotoart.co.nz).

The larger ‘main’ images are on the right-hand page as you go through. Each image has a short ‘story’ which might say where it was taken and how you find the place, or may be about the process involved in getting that ‘shot’. I hope this helps you the reader ‘enter’ the scene just as I did when I was there. Knowing the story behind an image often makes it more real.

## About My Photography

Photography is a creative art that enables me to stop time – that is, to capture a moment or a place and preserve that for others to also experience. It is also about observation – about being connected and ‘in the moment’ of what you are doing, so that you ‘see’ at another level. For me ‘observation’ goes through several phases when I am taking a photograph – phase 1 is just finding the place or object and realising the possibilities; phase 2 is looking around to ‘size up’ the best angle or the light, and phase 3 is ‘composition’ when I am refining how the image looks through the viewfinder.

At the start of each photograph (especially so with landscapes, or inside churches) I take the time to just absorb the place and the beauty that emerges... Often quite ordinary places can hide a unique beauty or image – such as the image of a local dairy or convenience store! But one has to take the time to ‘absorb’ the place to see it...

Photography, particularly landscape photography, also involves patience – whether it is waiting for the light or coming back another time to get the right weather or sky. In this sense it is not unlike fishing, where a certain amount of luck helps and there might be days when you do not catch a fish at all!

The camera is an extension of my eye and my creative side – it not only captures the image but it also captures the essence of my thoughts and feelings as I took the shot. So for instance I would like to think the colours and shapes in a particular image convey for the person viewing it an emotional reaction to that place or object – just as when I was there taking the photograph...

For me the equipment (the camera) is only half of the photographic process. The other half is the person behind it! This means one has to be very familiar with the camera – to get the best out of it, especially in tricky lighting or weather – but equally one must practice ‘seeing’. By this I mean stopping and being still. And just looking and imagining what images might be in front of you – observing and creating. So ‘wandering around’ whether in a town or in the countryside can open up possibilities. As a photographer you won’t see these possibilities if you stay at home... unless, of course, you are shooting still life or macro.

As an aside (an important aside) being familiar with photo processing software also makes a big difference to the final image. While it may look good straight out of the

camera, it will almost always look better after processing of the RAW image on the computer. On my website I talk about techniques and tools (eg software) that aid the creative photographer.

### **Prints**

Through my website all these images, and many more, can be obtained as prints, and most are available up to quite large sizes. Large hanging vinyl prints up to 2 meters long are also available.

You are welcome to email me with any queries you might have, or comments you want to make:

[stuartmacdonald800@outlook.com](mailto:stuartmacdonald800@outlook.com)

I do hope you enjoy wandering through these images as much as I have enjoyed wandering around New Zealand capturing them.

**Stuart Macdonald**

*Wellington NZ*

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**Images**

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OPPOSITE PAGE

### **Lake Tekapo at Dawn**

Lake Tekapo is a very popular tourist stop but if you get up early you can still catch the tranquil beauty of a still lake at dawn. This shot was taken at the shoreline just below the Church of the Good Shepherd. In the background at the end of the lake is (center) Observation Hill with Mt Erebus to the left.

Nikon D7200, 18-105mm at f9.5 and 1/15 sec. ISO 100.



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LEFT

### **Church at Waihou Bay**

This is the historic Raukokore Anglican Church at Waihou Bay, East Cape. The church was built in 1894 and has survived the rigors of the sea and wind since then. If you look closely you can just see the support beams on the sides of the church. I wanted to capture both the church and the sea to convey a sense of strength and fortitude in standing against the elements.

Nikon D7200, 18-105mm at f5.6 and 1/500 sec. ISO 100.





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OPPOSITE PAGE

### **In Paparoa National Park**

Bullock Creek Road near Punakaiki will take you several kilometres into the Paparoa National Park. High limestone cliffs are common in this area and off the road the bush can be almost impenetrable, with steep climbs and descents. This wide angle image was taken hand held as there was no stable placement for a tripod, and luckily one shot came out sharp! The mossy ferns cover the tree trunks...

Canon EOS M3, 11-22mm at f9 and 1/3rd sec. ISO 200.  
Handheld.



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LEFT

### **Cambrians Autumn**

Cambrians is a small community (just a handful of houses) near St Bathans in Central Otago. You have to go up the dead end road off the main St Bathans/Becks road to get there. It is cold in winter and hot in summer, but in autumn this is what you see. At the end of the road is a lovingly cared for area with trees and pond.

Nikon D810, 24-120mm at f13 and 1/15 sec. ISO 200.  
(Modern image stabilisation, and a steady hand, really helps...)



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OPPOSITE PAGE

**Blue Purple**

Here is an image that truly ‘wanders’ between photographic genres! It is a picture of flower petals taken close up with a macro lens and a very narrow depth of field. Is it macro or fine art? I err on the latter...

Olympus OM-D EM10, 60mm macro at f2.8 and 1/60 sec. ISO 200.



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LEFT

**Toward Mt Ohau**

There are many beautiful places in the MacKenzie Country – lakes and mountains and wide open spaces. The simplicity of this image, taken late in the day, with Mt Ohau in the background, captures something of the MacKenzie.

Nikon D810, 24-120mm at f16 and 1/30 sec. ISO 64.





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OPPOSITE PAGE

### **Toward Mt Teviot**

Late in the day on the Roxburgh – Lake Onslow Road. The sun is shining across the rolling landscape and the dark clouds provide a striking contrast to the golden hills. Another few kilometres takes you to Mt Teviot and the descent down toward Lake Onslow.

Nikon D810, 24-120mm at f8 and 1/90 sec. ISO 100.

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LEFT

### **Fuel for the Engine**

Just off the Square in Palmerston North is the Burger Fuel restaurant. I could not resist stopping to take this picture! I did not have a tripod but luckily there was just enough light for a hand held shot.

Olympus OM-D EM10, 9-18mm at f6.7 and 0.7 sec. ISO 800. Hand held.





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OPPOSITE PAGE

### **Three Telopea in Mono**

As with 'Lily' on the preceding page the beautiful Telopea are lit by maglight torch. Here the black and white image captures the intricate structures of the flowers...

Nikon D5200, 40mm macro at f13 and 20 seconds. ISO 100.  
On tripod.

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LEFT

### **Lily**

Like a number of the still life images I like to do this one was taken on the dining room table late at night, and hand 'painted' with a maglight torch. This technique gives a truly black background and brings out the colours of the flower.

Nikon D5300, 18-55mm at f13 and 6 seconds. ISO 100.

(Note – although image stabilisation is usually very helpful for sharp shots here, with the camera on the tripod for several seconds, it must be turned off...)





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OPPOSITE PAGE

**Sacred Heart Wellington**

This beautiful cathedral goes by the full name of The Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and of St Mary his Mother. Although the exterior of the Cathedral appears imposing and somewhat austere with large columns and extensive brickwork, the interior is a most beautiful place with peaceful warm colours bathing the arches and sanctuary.

Nikon D810, 24-120mm at f13 and 2 seconds. ISO 64.  
On tripod (VR off).



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LEFT

**Abandoned Church – Whakatane**

This old dilapidated church sits in a graveyard on the edge of Whakatane.

Nikon D7200, 18-105mm at f9.5 and 1/45 sec. ISO 100.

