



Tiger Moth



Siren's Song

Ann Brandeis — Shaking The Dust Off Artistic Limitations

ANN BRANDEIS is a Fine Art Photographer, working with ideas and themes that explore meaningful symbols. “My images are a visual dialogue focusing on the many paths we take throughout our life. I look for signs and elements that visually describe or capture our memories — personal moments in time, which remind us of our past, sustain us through our present, and guide our future. Often conflicting, these memories may have little to do with rational thought and are resistant to logic, reminding us of our passions, desires, and losses, which, when embraced, become our history.”

To Ms. Brandeis, these personal and universal memories mark the passage of time, and remind us that time is, as she says, “Both our enemy and our friend.”

With an MFA from Pratt Institute and teaching positions at Rochester Institute of Technology, Fashion Institute of Technology,

By JAMIE ELLIN FORBES

NYC, and Manhattan Marymount College, Ms. Brandeis has travelled the world, seeking images to incorporate into her visual thoughts and dialogues. Along with a book she authored, **Color Processing and Printing** for Prentice Hall, numerous accomplishments and awards validate her expertise, including multiple IPA, Luci awards 2008, 2007, PX3 Prix de la Photographie 2008, Society for Education Juror's Award, 2008, upon which selected works were exhibited at the Center for Fine Art Photography.

Viewing Ann Brandeis's images, one enters the moment's illusion of a solitary thought in which we are invited to identify with her amorphous, earthy dreamscapes as evocative, universal, personal representations uniting the earth as a backdrop for the interplay between Gia herself and our emergence

of body into form. As exemplified in *Free Spirit*, Ms. Brandeis creates multiple layers of diaphanous images to deliver recognizable fantasies that transcend imaginative magic as image delivered into art in her photographic “paintings.” In *Tiger Moth*, one may see or be part of the mythic stories or fables of nymphs as they are drawn into life. A metaphysical, supernatural feel is united as the female nude appears to be weightless. Butterfly wings expand from her heart center as her chrysalis falls and flight is permitted.

It may appear to the viewer that within these photographs time ceases to exist as we witness the interplay of extrapolated inner visions of memories that arise as strong iconographic imagery. Ms. Brandeis taps the wellspring of the past and present to deliver stylistically unique art language as metaphor of image. In *Siren's Song*, time stands still for the classical approach to the feminine form as an object of beauty.



Between The Walls

In *Between the Walls*, the nude here, a la the frescoes of the Greeks and Romans, is married to the modern ability to use photo as image, in its exactness, creating a contemporized feel. The dust of the past artistic limits is shaken and a new freedom to explore the possibilities of the medium of the photograph as constructed image is achieved, leaving the artist free to develop detail, delicacy, movement and structure within the compositions. Ann's employs the understanding of natural light as a source for illumination as only the camera can deliver. She has a master's compositional eye used to demonstrate the three dimensional quality of her art, exploring the natural by weaving luminosity through the work.

In *The Modern Mermaid*, contrast of vision, light and time transcend the usual suggested tension as the definitive line necessary for composition. Light as a bridge becomes the foreground and background between belief, the known, and the flight of imagination incorporating figurative elements. Compositional intent joins objects of beauty as image; therefore introducing the artist's understanding that images serve as trigger points for personal remembrances.

Avoiding duality in the dialogue, Brandeis relies on the viewer's inner eye as recognition of personal memory to hint or finish, what is (or may be) said. Line is not drawn to create depth as linear, rather the images themselves relate a tranquil recall accentuated by streams of light played out on a palette of muted silken, gossamer-lit mist.



Free Spirit

A hard edge, when light is used to draw the line intended, may be utilized within the body of this collection.

The melding of these oppositions of reality and fantasy into the fragment of dream memories is enabled by the detail lent through her technique of "luminescence as line", which the artist has successfully mastered as a gestured component. In *Ray In Limbo*, the male nude appears to be suspended, hovering above the forest ground. Upon closer inspection, his body may be resting on a tree limb. The obscured light defines neither interpretation as a clear absolute, allowing the vapor-like diffusion of leafs to encourage an internal understanding which may change the viewer's interpretive mood with time.

Ann's masterful use of the camera creates a symbiotic language to lead and direct the viewer, as participant, down the passage of time between subconscious and conscious. With fragmented paths of recall, images are woven in an interplay back and forth, creating environments of universal familiarity. The camera becomes the brush; the image is applied like paint to relate the



Modern Mermaid



Ray In Limbo

subtlety of invocative invitation for the viewer to participate in the shifting ground as creative movement within the moment.

Impressions collected as images, revealed in a camera's flash, are collected to create the feelings imbued in an image captured, as if green growth were extensions photosynthesized from a myriad rainbow of thought, as if the images were organic in origin. Her innovative style, with its intrinsic, intuitive understanding of source material and artistry of message, substantiates her point of view. An ozone of creativity hangs in the air surrounding an artistic encounter with these works, rendering Ann Brandeis's metaphors as icons realized in nature as mythic form brought to life as image.