



Studio 238: *Stone Free*, Photography of Meredith Garcia

Where: **Studio 238**
The Harwood Museum of Art
238 Ledoux Street
Taos, New Mexico

When: **November 29 – December 29, 2017**
Opening Reception: December 1st, 2 – 4pm

Studio 238 is pleased to present local photographer Meredith Garcia and her recent body of work titled, *Stone Free*.

In the series “*Stone Free*,” Garcia exercises the abstract spirit, capturing the essence of the geological formations of the American Southwest - taking them out of their usual context and viewing them in a new way. Abstractions of stones free them from their literal content and meaning, entering into the mystery of what constitutes reality. If art consists of the emotional brain of the artist communicating with that of the viewer, then the reality is in the eye of the beholder. With these photographs, printed in Garcia’s Taos darkroom, she abstracts the essence of the real world while permitting the viewer to find his or her own reality within that image.

Garcia explains in her artist statement, “Abstract black and white photography is my passion. As the Polish avant-garde artist Wladyslaw Strzeminski once said, ‘Art is an individual way of seeing rather than about rote reproduction of a collectively agreed-upon reality.’ This statement embodies the core philosophy of my photographic work.”

In her previous life as a neurobiologist, Garcia spent many hours taking black and white film photomicrographs of the brain – arguably the most beautiful and complex structure in the known universe. Garcia retired from research and photomicroscopy in 2005, but her interest in photography continued. As she no longer had access to darkroom facilities, Garcia moved into the world of digital photography, which she initially liked but eventually found unsatisfying. She states, “it was too easy and I found I was shooting images promiscuously, without really putting much thought into composition.”

In the fall of 2010, Garcia decided to break off her intense flirtation with digital images and to return to her first love, black and white film photography. Using a Nikon camera with a 50mm lens, Garcia has looked at the real world in a different way – at reflections and shadows rather than the objects that create them, or at abstractions of larger objects, taking them out of their usual context and looking at them in a new way. She finds this focus on composition to be intellectually as well as artistically rigorous, but still productive of aesthetically pleasing images.

The opening reception on December 1st is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Harwood Museum of Art at 575.758.9826 x 109 or go to harwoodmuseum.org.