

George Thomas Mendel

www.GeorgeThomasMendel.com







In the Final Throes: Somers Place



After Life: The Music Express

View Camera

29



After Life: The Moby Dick Swing and Ride



In the Final Throes: House 38



Deep in a Dream: Central Park

Tech Notes: camera, Horseman Technical VH
(metal folding)
-lens, Rodenstock Apo Macro Sironar, 180 5.6
-filter, B&W 010 filter
-film, Kodak T-Max 100 film
-film developer, Ilford ID-11

The sculptural delicacy of a single flower left on a fireplace mantel for more than a year was the genesis of George Thomas Mendel's collection of macro images, entitled "Tulip Nevermore."

Using single light illumination to create striking contrast and detailing, (a technique similar to dark field illumination, used in micrographic engineering studies), he photographed a variety of air-dried flower cuttings, each on average from 2 to 5 centimeters in length, using a Horseman view camera.

Mendel, a former engineer, is a Pittsburgh-based location and fine arts photographer and photojournalist with more than twenty years' experience in editorial, architectural, interior, portraiture, still life and nature photography.

His past subjects have been as diverse as the art and architecture of the American Southwest, and of major cities including Pittsburgh, Cleveland, New York City, Zurich, Lucca, Italy, Toronto, Santa Fe and San Francisco; to the photojournalistic imagery of Western Pennsylvania's post-industrial landscape, and its impact on working class populations; to the "Tulip Nevermore" collection of naturalistic still life imagery. Primarily working in black and white photography as an art form using his view camera, Mendel produces his fine art prints using the traditional fiber-based silver printing process.

For commercial assignments, Mendel has been using a Leica, translating skills he acquired during years of view camera photography to capture architectural interiors and exteriors with digital equipment. To create the image in this way, he visualizes in advance the required corrections, captures the photograph, and, using basic view camera principles, and carries them out on Adobe® Lightroom® and Photoshop® programs.

A collection of his images depicting life in the in the former steel town of Tarentum, Pa. is now part of the permanent collection of the Heinz Regional History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. Mendel was also the featured artist of the Carrie Furnace Project, depicting images of the decommissioned iron works of Braddock, Pa., currently under consideration as a national historic site. His black and white imagery has been exhibited at leading galleries in the Pittsburgh region, including the Silver Eye Center for Photography, the Zenith Gallery, and at New York's Abney Gallery.

Mendel's compelling imagery of post-industrial Western Pennsylvania also appears in poet Paola Corso's collection of verses, "Death by Renaissance." Along with Corso, he was a presenter at the Working Class Studies Conferences, held at the Ohio State University and the University of Pittsburgh in 2004 and 2009.

His work has appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Magazine, American Salon, Western Pennsylvania History, Architectural Lighting, Home Trends, and Industrial Photography, Air Racing Illustrated, and in "Beautiful Things," a collection of 250 photographs of art and sculpture selected by former Smithsonian arts-and-crafts curator Michael Monroe.

His commercial and industrial client list includes location photography for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and Cannery Casino Resorts.

Mendel received his bachelor's degree in ceramic science and engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1986; and is a past participant in the Santa Fe photographic workshops and Zone VI photographic workshops in Vermont.

He is a member of the Academy of Science and Art of Pittsburgh, and the Silver Eye Center for Photography.

Text by Anne Caffee