



## JOHN ATCHLEY

A master at illuminating and abstracting nature, John Atchley's work captures a sense of light and movement that offer us a unique perception of the natural world. Atchley graduated from Yale with a Master's Degree in photography in 1972. The Photography Department was established while Atchley was at Yale. He was one of the first four students to be accepted into the department. Walker Evans was associated with the program as well as guest artists like Robert Frank and Ansel Adams (one of Atchley's role models at the time) along with Eliot Porter, Minor White and Paul Caponigro. The program continues today as one of the most prestigious universities for photography with Gregory Crewdson as the Director of Graduate Studies and nine students per year.

After Yale, Atchley set aside the camera for nearly forty years. By that time the digital revolution started and he embraced it in all of its forms, so glad to leave the darkroom behind. His initial interest in the medium was born from a love of nature. Atchley originally aspired to capture his subjects with extreme sharpness. In his recent ventures, he found that he could reinterpret them in ways that really made sense to him—intentional camera movements, out of focus images, long exposures, and camera apps, all giving him incredible choices as to how he presented the world as it appeared to him. While most of his photography still happens in the outdoors, he often focuses on color forms, lights and darks, subtle gradations, the overall feel of a scene, or what he calls "distillations", breaking the composition down into its basic elements. Atchley sees beyond the obvious details of scenes and interprets them into fluid abstractions and alternative process-like textures that embody the spirit of place and evoke the artist's sense of connectivity between mind and nature. Often compared to Rothko, he has the ability to detach and abstract the visible from the real. Ultimately, Atchley is a photographer because he feels that he has something to say about the way he sees the world. His abstracts are suggestive of landscape but lend themselves to contemplation and reflection. The consistent pull between light and darkness, line and color, emotion and reality, environment and dream, give his work a distinctive grasp of nature on a deeper level. "To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." -Elliott Erwitt

Atchley has been featured in almost 50 exhibitions since he re-emerged as a photographer in 2010. In 2015, he received the *Martha Boschen Porter Fund Grant* from the *Berkshire Taconic Foundation* and has received many accolades including twice winning the *Epson Pano Awards Four "Bronze" Awards*, placing in the *NYC4 PA "Rural Impressions" Award* and *FIER Institute "Romantic Landscape" Award*. His work is widely collected by private collectors and is in the permanent collection of the *Polaroid Corporation*. Atchley is represented by *Sohn Fine Art* in Lenox, MA

## JOHN ATCHLEY

b. 1947

Lives and works in the foothills of the Berkshires, Connecticut

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

1972 MFA, Photography, Yale University, New Haven, CT

1969 BFA, Photography, Marlboro College, Marlboro, VT

### Solo Exhibitions

2016 *Illumination*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2011 *Out of Darkness*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

### Group Exhibitions

2021 *Futurity*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2019 *Icing on the Cake*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2018 *Tides + Falls*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2017 *White as Snow*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2017 *Into the Woods*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2017 *Seeds*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2016 *Beneath the Surface*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2016 *Erotica*, Tivoli Artists Gallery, Tivoli, NY

2016 *iMotif*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2016 *Nude Nite Orlando*, Artegon Marketplace, Orlando, FL

2016 *Conroe Art League 2016 Invitational*, Conroe, TX

2016 *Trees*, PhotoPlace Gallery, Middlebury, VT

2015 *abstrakt*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2015 *Erotica*, Tivoli Artists Gallery, Tivoli, NY

2015 *Open Spaces*, Indian Mountain School, Lakeville, CT

2014 *Rurbanism*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2014 *Trinity Art Show*, The Gallery at Trinity Lime Rock, Lakeville, CT

2014 *Represented Artists*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA

2014 *Group Exhibition*, Gallery Arts Guild, Millerton, NY

2014 *IM Art*, Indian Mountain School, Lakeville, CT

2013 *Twin Oaks Remembered*, Sharon Historical Society, Sharon, CT

2013 *Show for a Show*, Artwell, Torrington, CT

2013 *Cranwell Spa & Golf Resort*, Lenox, MA

2013 *Group Exhibition*, The Gallery at Trinity Lime Rock, Lakeville, CT

2013 *This is Our Land*, The Moviehouse, Millerton, NY

2012 *Mix It Up*, Sharon Historical Society, Sharon, CT

2012 *Group Exhibition*, The Gallery at Trinity Lime Rock, Lakeville, CT

2012 *Artists and Artisans in Our Midst*, Gallery Arts Guild, Lakeville, CT

2012 *Through a Lens: Vibrant!*, Michael H. Kellicutt International Photo Show, Half Moon Bay, CA

2012 *Small Works*, 14<sup>th</sup> Colony Artists, Noble Horizons, Salisbury, CT

2012 *Images 2012*, Fairfield Museum and History Center, Fairfield, CT

2012 *Abstracts: The Alternative Eye*, 1650 Photography Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2012 *iPhoneography*, Lunch Box Gallery, Miami, FL

2012 *Prospectus*, Artwell, Torrington, CT

2012 *Small Works Competition*, Soho Photo Gallery, New York, NY

2011 Salisbury Land Trust Photography Show, Academy Building, Salisbury Association, Salisbury, CT  
2011 Natural World, David Hunt Library, Falls Village, CT  
2011 Group Exhibition, 14<sup>th</sup> Colony Artists, Millerton Antiques Center, Millerton, NY  
2011 A Summer Ramble, Joint Exhibition at Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA & William Cullen Bryant Estate, Cummington, MA  
2011 Small Works, 14<sup>th</sup> Colony Artists, Noble Horizons, Salisbury, CT  
2011 Group Exhibition, Housatonic Camera Club, Noble Horizons, Salisbury, CT  
2011 Images 2011, Fairfield Museum and History Center, Fairfield, CT  
2010 Group Exhibition, 14<sup>th</sup> Colony Artists, Millerton, NY  
2010 Group Exhibition, Housatonic Camera Club, Noble Horizons, Salisbury, CT

#### **Publications & Reviews & Awards**

2015 Exposure Awards, LensCulture, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
2015 Passages and Doorways, Terrabella Media: 1<sup>st</sup> Place and Passages Award  
2014 The Worldwide Photography Awards: WPGA Summer Winner, Fine Art Category  
2013 NYC4 PA: Rural Impressions, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
2013 The Epson International Pano Awards: Four Bronze Awards  
2013 Twin Oaks Remembered, Sharon Historical Society, Sharon, CT: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
2013 New York Center for Photographic Art, New York, NY: Primary Colors, Passages Juror's Selection  
2013 FIER Institute, Australia: Romantic Landscape, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
2013 New York Center for Photographic Arts, New York, NY: Rural Impressions, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place