

Biography

Hunter Jackson built his first darkroom in an apartment closet in 1970 (The equipment was cheap and the space was claustrophobic. It was perfect!" he recalls.) and pursued the art of photography through several subsequent darkrooms and almost 20 years. Life eventually intervened with four children and a career in science, but his love of the single, still image remained.

Since returning about five years ago to the practice of photography, he has used the medium to help him understand his world and the evanescent tendrils of connection to it. Why this thing, this moment, this feeling?

Jackson's work has been included in the 100th and 101st Springville Museum of Art Spring Salons and the 19th Eccles Art Center Biennial Black & White Competition, where his entry was chosen for the Paul Muller Award. This is his third exhibition at Phillips Gallery.

Artist Statement

I can't say what my photographs are about, exactly, and probably wouldn't even if I knew. That's for the viewer to decide. Trust the tale, not the teller, to paraphrase D H Lawrence. They are not about the thing in the photograph, not the flower or the building or the pipe. I don't set out to photograph anything in particular and, in fact, take very few photographs. Someone said about Andre Kertesz, "He fishes for photographs. Instead of running to find them, he waits patiently for them to bite."

Kertesz was a fisherman almost without peer, but those words have the ring of truth to me. I click the shutter instinctually, when I feel a nibble. If asked in the moment, what are you taking a picture of, I might have a hard time answering. And I never know immediately if what's in the camera is worth anything. Like in the old days when a print would slowly emerge under a red light, the first glimpse of an image on the screen says "move on" much more often than "look deeper." If the latter, it may take patience – months, sometimes even years, before we connect. By the time we're done, I like to think, as the painter John Wood might say, they're not about something, they are something.