

Michal Fedeles – The Nature Project

Visual Description

This exhibit is of photographs taken by Michal Fedeles in various areas of Metro Vancouver, though most of them are not recognizable places. I will describe the 5 large photographs of 20x30 inches. The other photographs in the exhibit are smaller, ranging from 8x12 inches to 16x20 inches. All images in the exhibit are framed with plain black frames and white mats that are about 2-4" wide, and are behind glass. They are arranged on large, freestanding gallery panels covered in a beige carpet-like material. There are four double sided panels, stacked in a line, running north-south. The panel faces also point north-south. The panels are numbered 1 through 8, with 1 being the northernmost panel, 2 being the south facing panel on the rear side of panel 1, and so on, through panel 8 being the southernmost panel.

Michal talks about how his photographs were made, saying, "What gives these images an abstract, almost impressionist feel, is the in-camera movement technique. The way I approach this is by shooting nature elements (trees, grass, bushes) in slightly lower light conditions and using longer exposure times (such as 1/6s), while intentionally applying slight vertical (or circular) camera motion." All artist quotes come from the descriptive note cards posted next to the images.

Panel 1

The first image is a vertical presentation called **Winter Sunrise**. Michal says, "A peaceful mood created by the winter sun rising over Surrey, enjoyed during an early morning walk along the Fraser River in Brownsville Bar Park."

The image shows many thin, bare tree trunks, going from the bottom to the very top of the image. These trees are dark colour and are backlit by a sunrise. The background colour fades from a bright yellow in the bottom middle up through shades of pale pink and pale purple to a medium shade of blue at the top of the image. Along the very bottom of the image is a dark-grey silhouette of a skyline, with both buildings and branches visible. Some branches from the trees in the foreground darken the top of the image, but they are less branch-like and more impressionistic of movement.

Panel 3

The second image is also a vertical presentation called **Fired Up**. Michal says, "A high-energy moment sparked by the sights of arctic fire dogwood in early spring, admired in Vancouver's VanDusen Botanical Gardens".

The image is made up of striking colours of bright gold and yellow near the centre and rich, deep dark green near the top. The bottom of the image is a mix of gold and green. The golden centre is very spiky-looking, with sharp sticks reaching up into the dark green area at the top, which are highlighted in a deep orange. In the middle of the golden area, are approximately 4 or 5 very bright lines. Although the predominant movement in the image is vertical, there are some horizontal and diagonal lines in the background of the yellow and gold area. These criss-cross behind the bright lines giving a rich texture as well as the appealing colour in this central area.

Panel 4

The third image is a vertical presentation which is shown on the gallery panel with two other, smaller pieces on the right, as part of a set or triptych, called **Fresh Grass**. Michal says, "that time when grass leaves shoot upward toward the sun, showcasing a fresh palette of yellows and greens, witnessed on a street in New Westminster."

The large image is predominantly greens and purples, and with highlights of blue and yellow. There are more deep dark purples dominating in the top and bottom thirds of the image, with more greens and

yellows in the middle third. The picture has strong vertical movement, with the colours streaking up and down, and it is entirely abstract – though we know the subject is from nature, we can't tell exactly what it is. It is blurrier at the top, getting gradually clearer toward the bottom. The printing of the large image is slightly granular creating a texture within the colours. This is less visible in the smaller companion pieces. Beyond the overall vertical movement, there is some horizontal and diagonal changes of colour, which add drama, movement, and cohesion to the piece.

Panel 5

The fourth image is also a vertical presentation, and with vertical movement streaks, and is called **Side Light**. Michal says, "A western red cedar tree scene illuminated by rays of the afternoon sun in the calm urban wilderness housed in the Burns Bog Nature Reserve in Delta."

This photograph has more obvious images of trees, branches and leaves than the other photos, though it is still impressionistic. The overall colours are rusty brown, grey-green, splashes of white, and some black near the top and the bottom of the frame. There is one larger tree trunk, which dominates the picture, standing just right of centre, stretching from near the bottom of the image through to the top edge. It is brown with some grey-green highlights. In a diagonal band behind the main tree and stretching from the bottom left to the top right are what appear to be fern leaves and cedar boughs, which are grey-green and highlighted in white. Below this band of foliage is indiscernible forest floor and rising above the diagonal stripe are other tree trunks but further in the background.

Panel 8

The final image is a horizontal presentation with a circular movement in a counter-clockwise direction, called **Dancing Fairies**. Michal says, "The late morning sun peeking from behind trees in VanDusen Botanical Gardens in Vancouver tickles visitors' curiosity and boundless imagination."

Just slightly to the left of centre is the lower portion of a tree trunk with some ivy on it. The trunk looks almost fuzzy due to the movement in the photograph. Around the light brown trunk is the blurred background of the forest floor with light browns and light greens. There are some small sprouts in this foreground, which seem to flutter. There appears to be a horizon line of bright light, and a few more trees further off in the background. Some branches from the central tree and other trees are visible but are very blurred due to the movement in the image.