



# dystopia

dawna mueller

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**dystopia**

*dystopia*

*Your ancient forest of maple, cedar and fir abundance  
Asked for only care and respect in return  
Providing protective shelter, nourishing food, and a spiritual place to connect  
Your subterranean network connecting all beneath a thick carpet of fern*

*You sheltered nursing black bear cubs in your cedar log's hollow  
The rare spotted owls and marbled murrelets in your glorious crown  
Providing a sanctuary amongst the lush conifers and deciduous for all to wallow  
Amongst the luxurious bed of broadleaves strown*

*Yet we choose to ignore the resplendent gifts of nature that you bear  
Lost in our senseless destruction of plundering your Stand at all cost  
And mindlessly forget that it is from you we take our essential breath  
And that your death will be our loss*

*We want all of the riches of old growth wood from your bounty  
Greedily anticipating your ancients in their thunderous fall  
Oblivious to the fact of a reality that without you  
We are creating a barren, burnt, lifeless dystopia for all*

*dawna mueller*

bio

Dawna Mueller is Canadian/Swiss photographer focusing on the relationship between humans and nature. Dawna's passion for nature and the environment began when she spent time in the Yukon working summers through University. Traveling around the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alaska whenever possible, left an indelible impression on her and raised her awareness of the impact that humanity had on these fragile ecosystems.

It was after a move to Switzerland, that the confluence of the environment, humans and photography began and became the cornerstone of her practice. Focusing on the Swiss Alps, Dawna traveled to glaciers and mountains documenting the impact of the changing climate. Additionally, her work has taken her to the Arctic and the Antarctic, where she witnessed the effects of record high temperatures, warming oceans, melting glaciers and the detriment to the region's wildlife. Dawna notes that, "The planet is in peril and the weather patterns are causing havoc in all areas of the world, no one is immune from the destruction and devastation." Temporal and spatial concepts are the foundation of her practice and through her work Dawna creates visual narratives connecting humanity to nature.

Dawna is currently working on a photographic project documenting the ancient old growth forests on southern Vancouver Island. This area is under imminent threat of clear-cut logging and her practice is a photographic exploration of the ecological and temporal relationship within the forest and its relationship to humanity. Additionally, Dawna has been documenting the blockades for Focus

on Victoria, and Saving Earth Magazines and has been covering the enforcement of the injunction and arrests since May 18, 2021.

Dawna was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is Red River Métis. She has a Diploma in Photography from Cap Fotoschule in Switzerland. Additionally, Dawna studied Art and History at the University of Paris - Sorbonne, Political Science at the University of British Columbia and Law at the Allard Hall School of Law at UBC. In 2018, Dawna was trained as a Climate Reality Leader by Al Gore in Los Angeles as a part of his foundation The Climate Reality Project.

Dawna has exhibited her work internationally and her photographs are part of permanent and private collections worldwide, including Allard School of Law at UBC.

In addition to her ongoing work, Dawna is currently studying for a Masters of Photography at Falmouth University, in Cornwall, UK.



Photo by Ken Miner

statement of Intent

Dystopia is a photographic narrative that looks at the landscape through the narrative of place identity, of its interconnectedness and interdependence to humanity, and its importance in the cognitions of the physical world.

The focus of my work over the last six months has been documenting the last remaining temperate rainforests on Southern Vancouver Island that are currently being clear-cut logged at an unprecedented rate. There is less than 2.7% ancient rainforest left in the province of British Columbia and less than 1% percent remaining on Vancouver Island. This issue has divided a community, province and country since August 9, 2020 with more than 1150 forest defenders arrested since May 18, 2021.

My intention with this series is to challenge how we think about the agency of place, and our relationship to it. The underpinning of my work is about our relationship to nature and my current research documents the demise of the ancient temperate rainforest through the fervent exploitation of its resources. I have born witness to the disappearance of huge areas of the ancient rainforest since I began my research in March 2021. This reality provides additional impetus for my continuation with this work and the desire to share it with others through the dissemination of a variety of visual strategies, one of which is this book.

wildwood





































gary oaks























dystopia





















human legacy



















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**list of images**

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## wildwood

- Page 17. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 1*  
Page 18. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 2*  
Page 19. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 3*  
Page 21. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 4*  
Page 22. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 5*  
Page 23. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 6*  
Page 25. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 7*  
Page 26. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 8*  
Page 27. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 9*  
Page 28. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 10*  
Page 29. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 11*  
Page 30. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 12*  
Page 31. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 13*  
Page 33. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 14*  
Page 35. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 15*  
Page 36. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 16*  
Page 37. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 17*  
Page 39. Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 18 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 19 (middle)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *wildwood 20 (bottom)*

## gary oaks

- Page 43. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 1*  
Page 44. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 2 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 3 (bottom)*  
Page 45. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 4 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 5 (bottom)*

- Page 46. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 6 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 7 (bottom)*  
Page 47. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 8 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 9 (bottom)*  
Page 49. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 10*  
Page 50. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 11*  
Page 51. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 12*  
Page 53. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 13*  
Page 54. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 14*  
Page 55. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 15*  
Page 57. Mueller, D. (2021) *gary oaks 16*

## clear cutts

- Page 61. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 1*  
Page 62. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 2 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 3 (bottom)*  
Page 63. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 4 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 5 (bottom)*  
Page 65. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 6*  
Page 66. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 7*  
Page 67. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 8*  
Page 69. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 9*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 10 (bottom)*  
Page 70. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 11*  
Page 71. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 12*  
Page 73. Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 13 (top)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 14 (middle)*  
Mueller, D. (2021) *clear cutts 15 (bottom)*

## human legacy

- Page 76. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 1*  
Page 77. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 2*  
Page 78. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 3*  
Page 79. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 4*  
Page 80. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 5*  
Page 81. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 6*  
Page 82. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 7*  
Page 83. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 8*  
Page 84. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 9*  
Page 85. Mueller, D. (2021) *human legacy 10*



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For support and information on protecting the Ancient Southern Vancouver Island Rainforest follow:

Rainforestflyingsquad - <https://laststandforforests.com/>  
Fairy Creek Blockade - <https://www.facebook.com/FairyCreekBlockade>  
The Wilderness Committee - <https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/>  
Focus on Victoria - <https://www.focusonvictoria.ca/>



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