dystopia _{dawna} mueller

dawna mueller dystopia

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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.

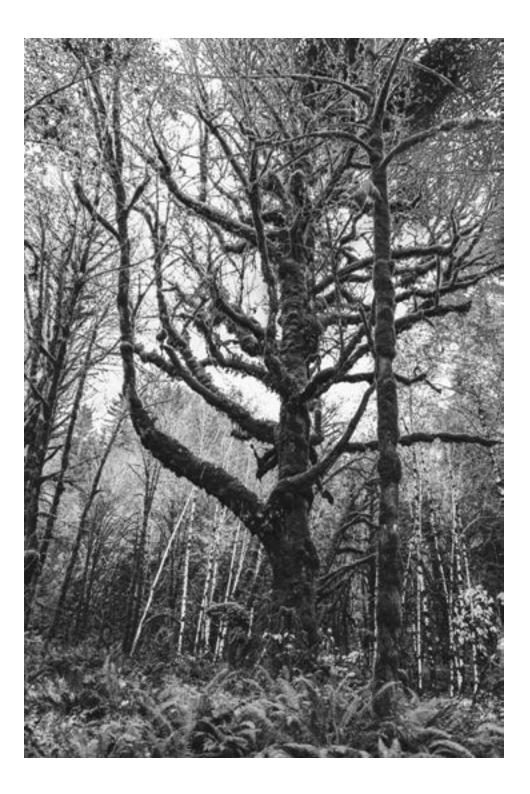
My intention with this series is to challenge how we think about the agency of place, and our relationship to it. The underpinning of my work is about our relationship to nature and my current research documents the demise of the ancient temperate rainforest through the fervent exploitation of its resources. 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.

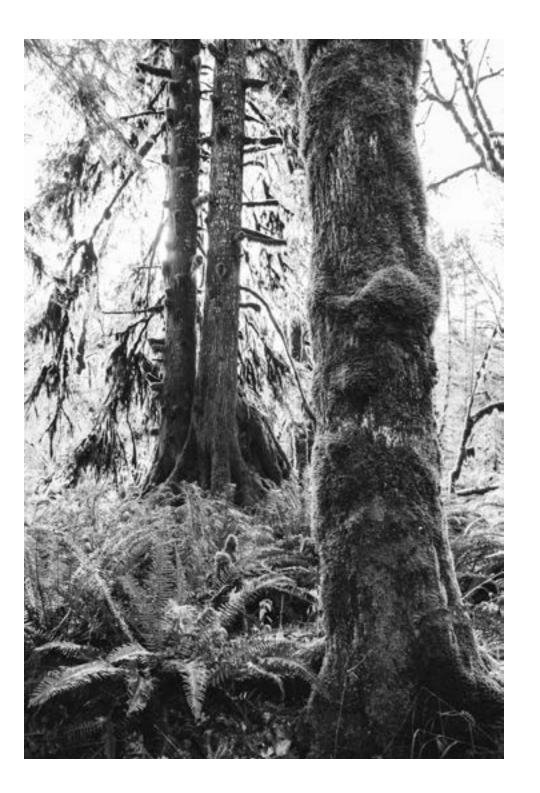
wildwood





































gary oaks



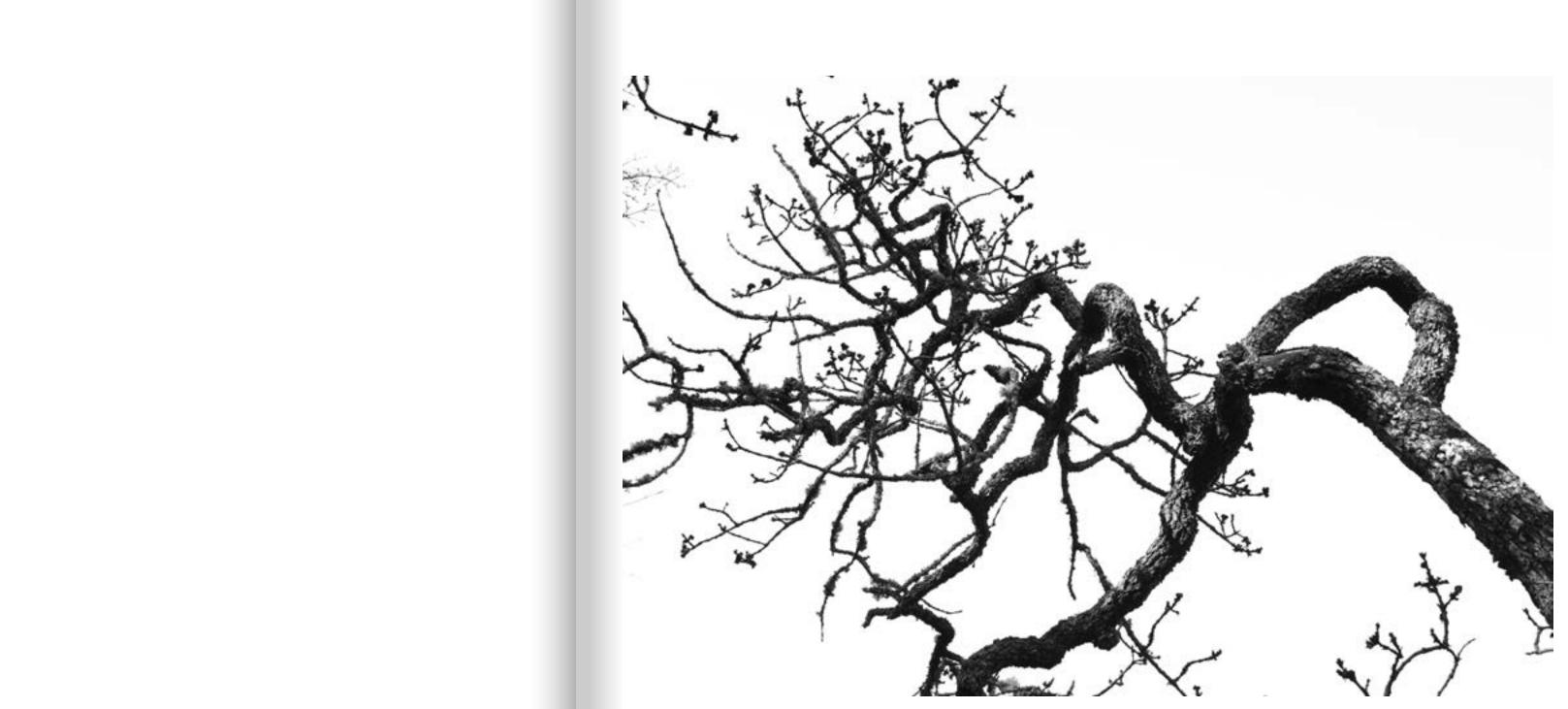
























dystopia



















human legacy





















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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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