

Etched by Light:

30 YEARS OF IMAGERY

WILL SHERWOOD

A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT

Nov 10 - Dec 29, 2026

Opening Reception 6-7:30pm Nov 10

Sterling Senior Center

Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm • Fri 8am-2pm

More info:

www.**SherwoodPhoto**.com/**nov**

Most artworks are for sale (make great holiday presents!)

20% of proceeds donated to Sterling Senior Center



A Thirty-Year Conversation with Light

The five collections in this Retrospective Exhibit reveal an artist whose work is defined less by a single photographic style than by an enduring investigative impulse. Will Sherwood moves comfortably between natural history, macro photography, abstraction, botanical imagery, and figurative studies. What connects these subjects is a persistent desire to look beyond the obvious.

High-speed capture, macro-optics, controlled illumination, reflective surfaces, natural symmetry, infrared film, and monochrome processes are his tools in the service of visual discovery. These permit the photographer to enter territories that ordinary observation cannot easily reach.

This retrospective also offers a welcome reminder that photography is not simply about recording what is in front of the lens. Artistic intuition helps mold the images, choosing what to isolate, how to illuminate, when to wait, and when to recognize that an apparently unremarkable subject contains the beginnings of something extraordinary. Sherwood captures that artistry inside curiously compelling scenes.

Etched by Light demonstrates that light does more than reveal objects. It shapes them, transforms them, and sometimes makes them almost unrecognizable. In Sherwood's hands, it becomes a means of inquiry—a way of uncovering structures and relationships that might otherwise remain unnoticed.

Over the course of 30 years, Sherwood’s most compelling achievement may be the continuity of his artistic curiosity. The subjects have changed, the techniques have evolved, and the visual language has expanded; the underlying impulse remains remarkably consistent: to stop, to look closer, and to discover what may have passed by.

Ultimately this retrospective is an invitation to recover the pleasures of seeing, reminding us that the world has never been short of wonders.

Etched by Light: 30 Years of Imagery — Will Sherwood, A Retrospective Exhibit. November–December 2026.

More info at www.SherwoodPhoto.com/nov

1. The Hidden World of Bumblebees - Paradoxes of a Pollinator





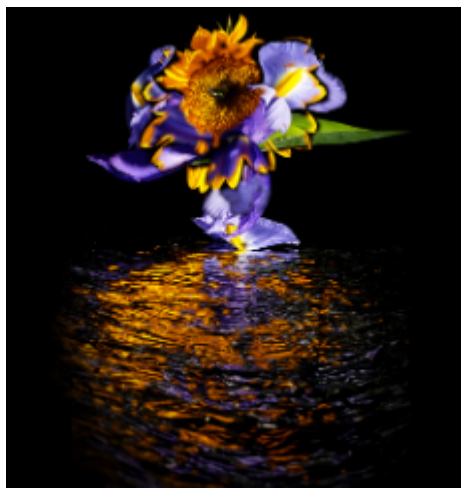
The humble bumblebee is a marvel of evolutionary engineering. Heavily built and densely coated with an insulating pile, these solitary foragers operate in environments far too cold for most insects, generating cozy internal temperatures through rapid muscle shivering. The long-standing myth that bumblebees defy aerodynamic laws derives from a flawed comparison to rigid airplane wings; in reality, their flexible wings sweep back and forth 200 times per second, creating low-pressure air vortices that yield dynamic lift. Unlike the vast, highly orchestrated colonies of honeybees, a bumblebee nest is an intimate, untidy home hidden underground—often repurposed from abandoned rodent burrows.

Through high-speed, macro-perspective photography, this series captures a glimpse of the industrious life of these essential creatures. From "buzz pollination"—where upon landing, bees vibrate their flight muscles to release sticky pollen from plants like tomatoes and blueberries—to late-summer males sleeping dormant inside cup-shaped blossoms at dusk, these images invite you to observe and reflect on the intricate mechanics and quiet resilience of one of nature's master workers.

> Throughout August and September 2026, our *Bombus* models proved to be exceptionally patient co-stars. Carving out a half hour at different times of day provided an extraordinary front-row seat to their daily routines. Paired with a fast shutter speed, the Nikon Z 105mm macro lens helped capture more than 4,000 frames, which were carefully curated down to these magical pollinator portraits.

2. *Reflectionalities*™ - The Mirrored Universe



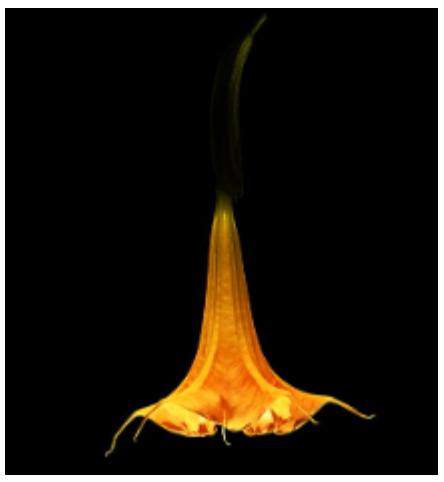


Nature is rarely still, yet within its fluid movements lies an extraordinary symmetry. This series uses reflective surface dynamics and digital symmetry to transform familiar elements, natural forms, and textures into visual mandalas. By capturing and folding images of water, foliage, and natural light, the photographs reveal structure in what might otherwise seem like random distribution.

Look closely at the rhythmic repetitions and swatches of color. The images prompt us to examine how scale, wave patterns, and balance shape our perception. Far from mere trickery of light, these compositions highlight the inherent geometry underlying the natural world, prompting a reexamination of how order and chaos coexist in nature. Enjoy this kaleidoscopic view of nature.

> I have long been fascinated by the calm chaos of rippling reflections and the unpredictable abstract art they create. Through extensive experimentation with light direction, low camera angles, vibrant botanical subjects, and tailored exposure settings, I captured hundreds of frames to explore how light bounces across surfaces. While many variations bordered on the mundane or garish, shifting my techniques eventually unlocked surprising, evocative compositions.

3. *Floralescence*™ - Illuminating Floral Translucence

Flowers have long served as one of art's most explored subjects. This collection explores the intricate structures, vivid hues, and subtle luminescence of floral anatomy. Using close-up perspective and careful lighting, these images uncover both the bold architecture and delicate simplicity of blossoms.

What draws the human eye to a flower is often the very same signpost designed to attract a pollinator. Reflective patterns, high-contrast petal guides, and translucent structures serve as functional navigation systems for insects while offering viewers a masterclass in organic design. These photographs challenge us to see flowers not merely as icons of beauty, but as intricate, purposefully designed organisms.

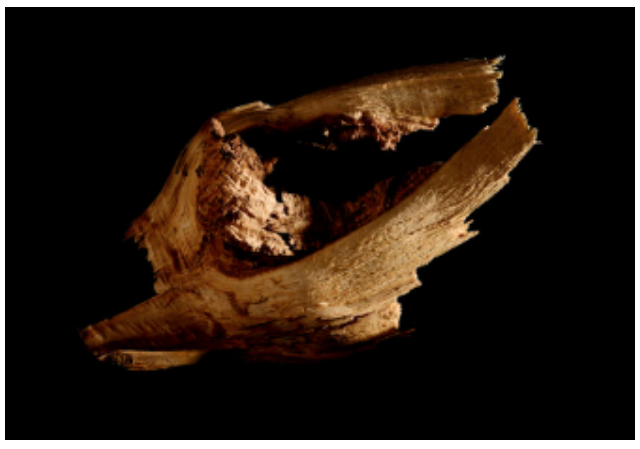
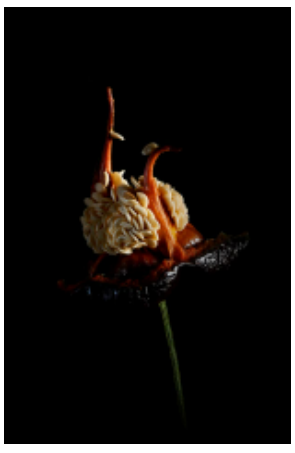
> Peering through my great-aunts' antique stained-glass windowpanes as a child, I was captivated by how shifting my stance altered the landscape outside. That luminous transparency of colored glass stayed with me. Decades later in the studio, I sought to capture that same inner glow by experimenting with precise lighting angles against dark backgrounds, making delicate petals appear self-luminous. One particular shot of a trumpet vine bloom, *Ode to Tiffany*, stands as a direct homage to those classic stained-glass lampshades of the past.

4. Unseen Everyday - The Quiet Spectacle of Nature's Forms Beyond Order




In the rush of daily life, our visual brain naturally filters out the familiar. We glance past the intricate venation of a leaf, the iridescent feather of a bird, or the surprising geometry of ripening fruit. This exhibition is an invitation to pause our built-in filtering processes and examine the subtle artistry in ordinary surroundings.

Each photograph focuses on found natural objects and routine scenes, elevating them through macro framing and careful exposure. By isolating these elements from their broader surroundings, the series highlights the unexpected oddities, rich textures, and deliberate design hidden in plain sight. It asks a simple question: what else do we gain when we slow down and look?

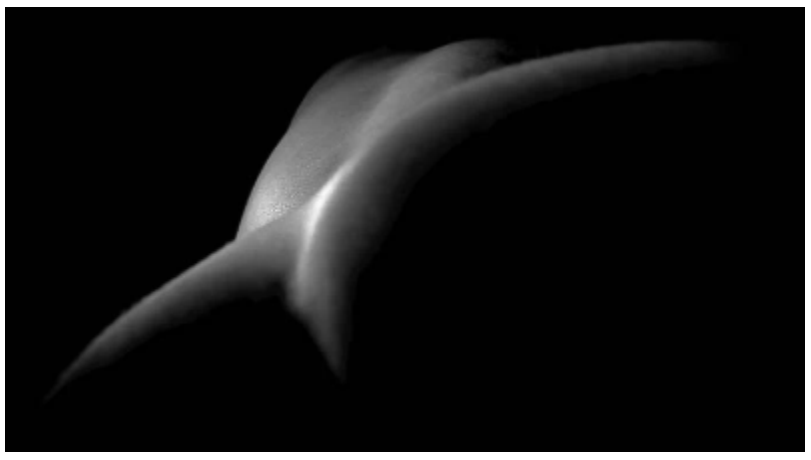



Nature does not always arrange itself in tidy, predictable patterns. Its most compelling moments often occur in the unexpected convergence of line, shadow, and surface texture. This series shifts focus away from immediate identification, offering unusual perspectives on everyday natural elements that challenge our preconceived notions.

Much like finding familiar shapes in passing clouds, these compositions invite active visual interpretation. What might appear to be weathered bark, might just as easily be an aerial view of an estuary or a microscopic organism. By stripping away immediate context, the photographs encourage you to bring your own associations to the work; how our minds construct meaning from organic form.

> My mind is rarely still: from an early age, I've been fascinated by how things are constructed and how they reveal themselves to a curious eye. Having childhood access to my father's camera gear and darkroom—along with a steady supply of expired film and paper he'd set aside—offered the ultimate playground for exploring the micro-details of my surroundings. That habit of seeing has never left me. Even today, while slicing a pepper for dinner, I'll stop to admire the architectural abstraction inside, or study the sweeping peaks and valleys formed by whipped meringue—perfect fodder for a *Kodak Moment*. I am delighted to share these unconventional perspectives and quiet oddities in this collection.

5. *Bodyscapes* - Form, Shadow, and Terrain





The human body is one of the most familiar forms in art, frequently viewed through cultural or functional lenses. *Bodyscapes* approaches the human figure strictly as a study in sculpture, line, and shadow. By utilizing monochrome silver gelatin photography, these artworks strip away distracting surface detail to emphasize contour, mass, and negative space.

Rather than attempting to identify specific anatomy, try considering these images as spatial studies. The play of light across bone and muscle mimics the gentle curves of wind-swept dunes, eroded terrain, or carved stone. In rendering the body abstract, this collection transforms the familiar into a landscape of shade and texture, celebrating form in a pure artistic sense.

> Light and shadow are my core creative tools. Many of the outdoor images were captured on infrared film, lending the subjects a dreamlike, marble-statue texture. In the studio, strong strobe lighting and dramatic camera angles create bold contrast to highlight natural shapes and curves. Every artwork in this series was shot on film and archivally printed on fiber paper with rich selenium toning.

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