

## Artist Statement

### Susanna Patras

Influenced by minimalism, American modernism, poetry and the aesthetic of film noir, my images are sometimes minimal compositions, low-key black and white nature scenes using shapes, textures and space as key elements, or color landscapes with balanced perspectives and natural tones.

Photography can relate to poetry, in particular, haiku, because it can operate with the same distillation of vocabulary. As poet Octavio Paz famously said: "I do not see with my eyes: the words are my eyes". (Paz, 1990) Photography is a metaphor for "light", in which the imagination and the poetic "eye" are largely used to create new worlds.

Therefore, light becomes a symbol of ultimate power and strength and a tool for understanding the unseen levels of reality and connections between all things. Metaphorically speaking, an image is created from the darkness of the sensor into the light of its existence, as French poet Paul Valery famously said: "what is Plato's cave, if not an already dark chamber, and the largest ever made?".

I cannot separate language, and poetry, in particular, from images since they both rely on signs and symbols to define my relationship to the outside world. Both poetry and photography empower me to observe the world around me and express my own inner universe through metaphors, symbols, and stories.

Photographing in the winter or in the desert can sometimes reveal abstract or minimalist compositions that often resonate with traditional Japanese ink paintings. Composition is not only about the careful placement of the subject in the frame, but also an experiment with the space between things. This is based on the concept of "Ma", a Japanese word that means "space" between two parts.

In my images, I tend to favor simplicity and a touch of mystery, as I record a quiet moment of contemplation in nature.

..."Susanna Patras' works invite the viewer to a prolonged visual dialogue during which the details of the scenes and balanced compositions gradually unfold conveying emotions and a sense of calm specific to modern contemplative fine art photography". (Horea Costin Chiriac, Art Critic, Romania)