HALFWAY LAKE

Boreal forest tornado aftermath

Halfway Lake Project

Halfway Lake is in Northern Ontario, Canada on the southern edge of the boreal forest. The area was hit by a tornado on July 28, 2002. It travelled in a relatively straight line cutting a swath over one kilometre wide at its widest for a total of 5.4 kilometres. The damage path at the lake was about 4 kilometres long and about 200 metres wide. The resulting devastation was absolute—tracks of forest levelled with almost every tree either snapped or uprooted.

I visited the area after the tornado had passed through. It was raining heavily but the rain was beginning to dissipate. Traversing the areas hit by the tornado was a bit of a challenge...wet, muddy, water pooling everywhere, wind blowing trees around, tree roots upended, broken tree trunks and debris scattered everywhere.

This collection of photographs of the tornado's devastation were taken over a period of one day as the weather was subsiding. I've been contemplating these for many years thinking about how to make them best reflect the feeling of being there: the wind, the rain, the eerie light, the smells of water and mud, the sheer volume and extent of the damage, the experience of standing in front of it all a soon after it happened. I believe the resulting photographs come close...at least for me they do.

For the photographers reading this...

I used a 35mm Olympus 35 SP rangefinder camera (a classic film photography gem) and a medium format Mamiya C330 Professional f twin lens reflex camera with a 55mm f4.5 wide angle lens and an 80mm f2.8 normal lens. I took all of these shots using a green filter on Kodak Tri-X black and white film. I developed the rolls of film using a split-development method with Kodak D-76 developer. The negatives were then scanned and digitally edited and printed.

Michael Christidis

Contact

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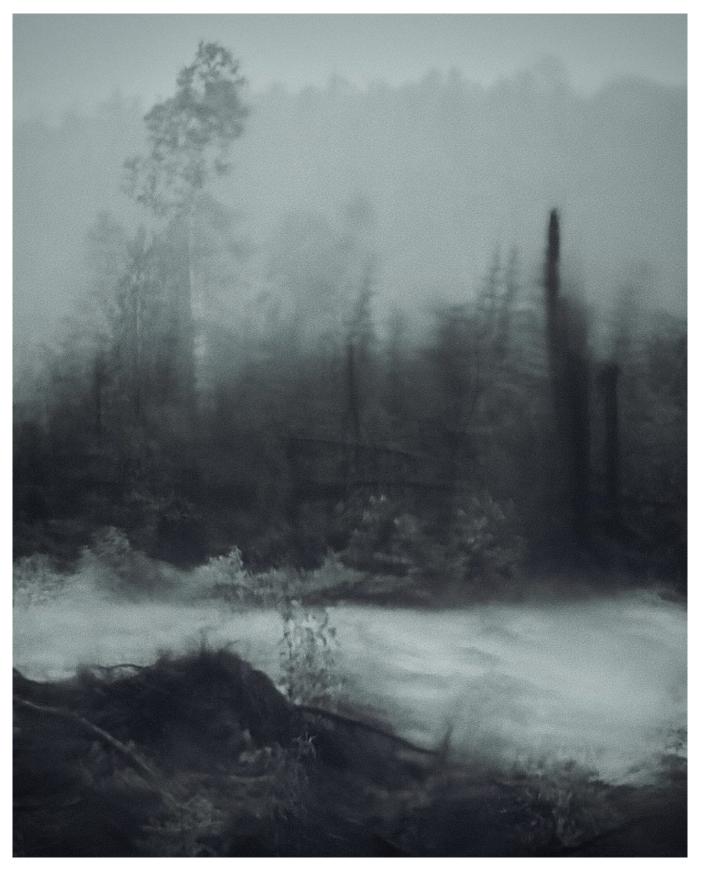
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Halfway Lake No. 6









Photograph on archival fine art paper | 5.25 x 14 inches | Edition of 3



Halfway Lake No. 11



Photograph on archival fine art paper | 5.25 x 14 inches | Edition of 3



Halfway Lake No. 13



Halfway Lake No. 14







Halfway Lake No. 17

About

Michael Christidis is a Canadian artist who is best known for his luminous multi-layered paintings depicting wilderness landscapes and shorelines. Like many Canadians, Christidis grew up with romantic notions of the Canadian landscape and a respect for the great painters who wove the fabric of Canadian national identity. He became fascinated with nature, and this encouraged him to explore the world around him through drawing, painting and photography from an early age.

Living in a country like Canada, with its vast untamed wilderness, dramatic scenery, diverse geology and four seasons, allowed the artist to develop a profound connection with, and appreciation of, the forces of raw nature. His landscape work directly conveys his deep respect for nature and its subtle, yet powerful, beauty and offers unusual and personal glimpses of breathtaking scenery.

Christidis' body of work is the product of a lifetime of refining his creative approach which is documented and illustrated in a sixty-page, freely available ebook on MichaelCArtist.com. From his formal studies of design, art history, still photography and film, to years of experimentation with mediums, techniques and aesthetics and professional work experience, to his writings about artistic intent and creativity, Christidis has left no stone unturned in his quest for a cultivated methodology that he can truly call his own.

Christidis has exhibited in Canada and the United States.

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