



# Affecting The Effects

Jerry Grasso



*How does a rainforest survive* the pace of human intrusion? Is a rainforest even worth saving when land resources are rapidly vanishing? Difficult questions to answer in a time where difficult choices need to be made. In the war between humans and nature, progress can only be measured from battle to battle. My series is an attempt to highlight the combined effects of these battles with the long term hope of affecting positively the final outcomes. I also attempt to portray a different way to showcase the beauty, the inside/out view of the DNA soul if you will, of the Daintree and the way I emotionally reacted to it, rather than presenting a straight photograph.

Much has already been written about the ways in which humans are affecting changes within the rainforest biospheres. For example, more than 50,000 trees have been planted. But in spite of this, the damaged effects persist and continue to spread. People are destroying the rainforest to build houses, roads and infrastructure. Mining is a problem because miners clear the rainforest and dig up the ground to extract minerals. Other issues caused by humans are logging, farming, and tourism. Regardless of the frequent horrific images presented in the media, affecting human hearts to change this attitude of careless encroachment remains a painstakingly slow process. Spotlighting these effects can be a means to continually slow down the advancement of civilization. Personally experiencing the glory and the tragedy of the rainforest is not always an option for most people. When it is, however, the experience can be cathartic, as it was for me.

In 2010, my wife, Jayne, and I visited the Daintree rainforest in tropical [Queensland](#), Australia. [The Daintree](#) is the oldest on the planet and is estimated at 135 million years with a size totaling over 1200 square kilometers. It contains an almost complete record of the evolution of plant life on Earth and has more ancient families of flowering plants than anywhere else in the world, including the entire Amazon jungle. I also learned that rainforests may still hold vital secrets for humankind, especially, for example, in terms of potential medical cures for AIDS and the yet undiscovered viruses of the future. There is scientific proof that cures do come from rainforests. One-fourth of drugs available today have products that came from rainforests. Sadly, we still continue to pillage these trees and land in the name of human development.

I was inspired to learn about the mission of a non-profit organization called

[Rainforest Rescue](#). The purpose of this organization is to promote and protect the world's rainforests. One of their projects is called the [Daintree Buy Back and Protect Forever](#), which purchases local properties from private landholders of high conservation value surrounded by World Heritage rainforests. This land is then added back to the protected tracts of land in Australia that are part of the World Heritage locations. These acquisitions in the Daintree contribute to long term plans for the creation of protective corridors for the endangered Cassowary. This ostrich-like bird is a vital contributor to the proliferation of plant life within the rainforest. The mission of Rainforest Rescue is a perfect example of how our efforts can affect or change the negative effects of our human devastation.

One of the things that came to mind during our visit was that I felt like I was viewing the DNA of this ancient rainforest as portrayed by the exotic and plush foliage. Each piece in this series mostly consists of composited photographic images I shot while in the Daintree and elsewhere within Australia. In most images, I used inversion to reveal the inner, raw beauty of each scene. Spotlight vignetting within the black and white images was used to draw more attention and significance to the selected effects. I felt privileged to be there and bear witness to the hidden life and potential of each living creation. This was certainly a spiritual experience for me.

Although my inspiration springs from these rainforest impressions, the series should really be viewed as a whole in an attempt to influence, even in some small way, the hearts and minds of viewers of all the natural wonders in this world. Human erosion and devastation on many scales seem to be accepted by us with despair and resignation. We see the impact of changes to our surroundings everyday, the effects of these intrusions, whether they are around the world or around the next block in our own neighborhood. We need to change this if our planet is to survive. It is my hope that we can affect the jadedness effects of the heart with an increased sense of responsibility and respect for the protection and renewal of these natural resources.

\*\*\* Any image found within this book or on my website is available as a print purchase. Just email me at [jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com), or visit my website at [jerrygrasso.com](http://jerrygrasso.com).

Enjoy life!









*The DNA*





*Complexity*





*Petaling*





*Spider*





*Indigenous*



*Kling On*





*Threatening*



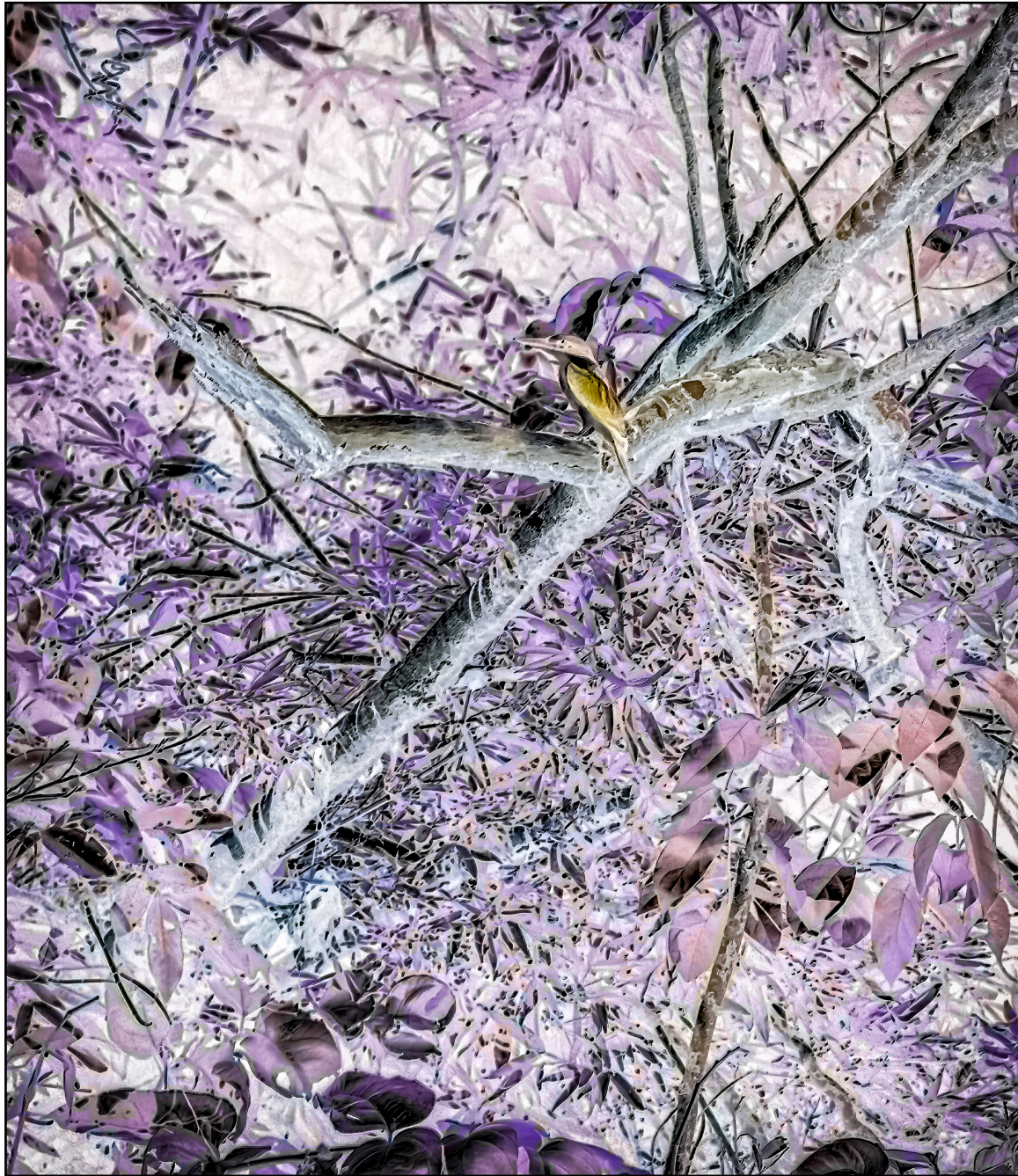
*Obscured*





*Boyd*





*Fisher King*





*Rainbow Flight*





*Ulysses*





*Dewdrop*



*Golden Orbs*





*Robber*





**Wet Stuff**

It rains a lot on the Daintree Coast!  
Here the mountain ranges  
close to the coast force the  
moisture-laden winds from  
the sea to rise, creating rain.  
Tropical rainforest needs at least two metres of rain a year  
to thrive. Much of this rain never reaches the forest floor.  
It evaporates from the canopy or collects in hollows. The rest  
drips off leaf drip tips or cascades down the trunks. But leaves  
need water, lots of it, along with soil nutrients to make sugar.  
During summer – when sunlight is intense, evaporation  
is high and soils are saturated, a rainforest giant can  
pump hundreds of litres of water per day from the  
soil to the canopy.













## Daintree Ferry Crossing Fees

### \$ BOOK OF 10

Multi-Day Pass ( 10 single one way fares, car/ute ) 40.00

### \$ ONE WAY \$ TWO WAY

Motor Cars & Utilities ( private use )	11.00	20.00
Buses 6 to 10 seats	12.00	23.00
Buses 11 to 20 seats	23.00	44.00
Buses 21+ seats	36.00	69.00
Licensed Public Transport Buses	7.00	13.00
School Buses	6.00	11.00
Passengers, Bicycles and Pedestrians	1.00	2.00
Motor Bikes	5.00	9.00
Trailers	4.00	8.00
Machinery not carrying Primary Produce	8.00	14.00
Machinery carrying Primary Produce	4.00	8.00

ALL PRICES GST INCLUSIVE

*Note: If passenger numbers exceed the number of seats,  
the pedestrian fare applies for the extra passengers.*

**Ferry operates 6am to midnight**

By Order Chief Executive Officer





*Rooted*





*Crossing*









*Nice N Easy*





*Hidden*









*Light Traps*

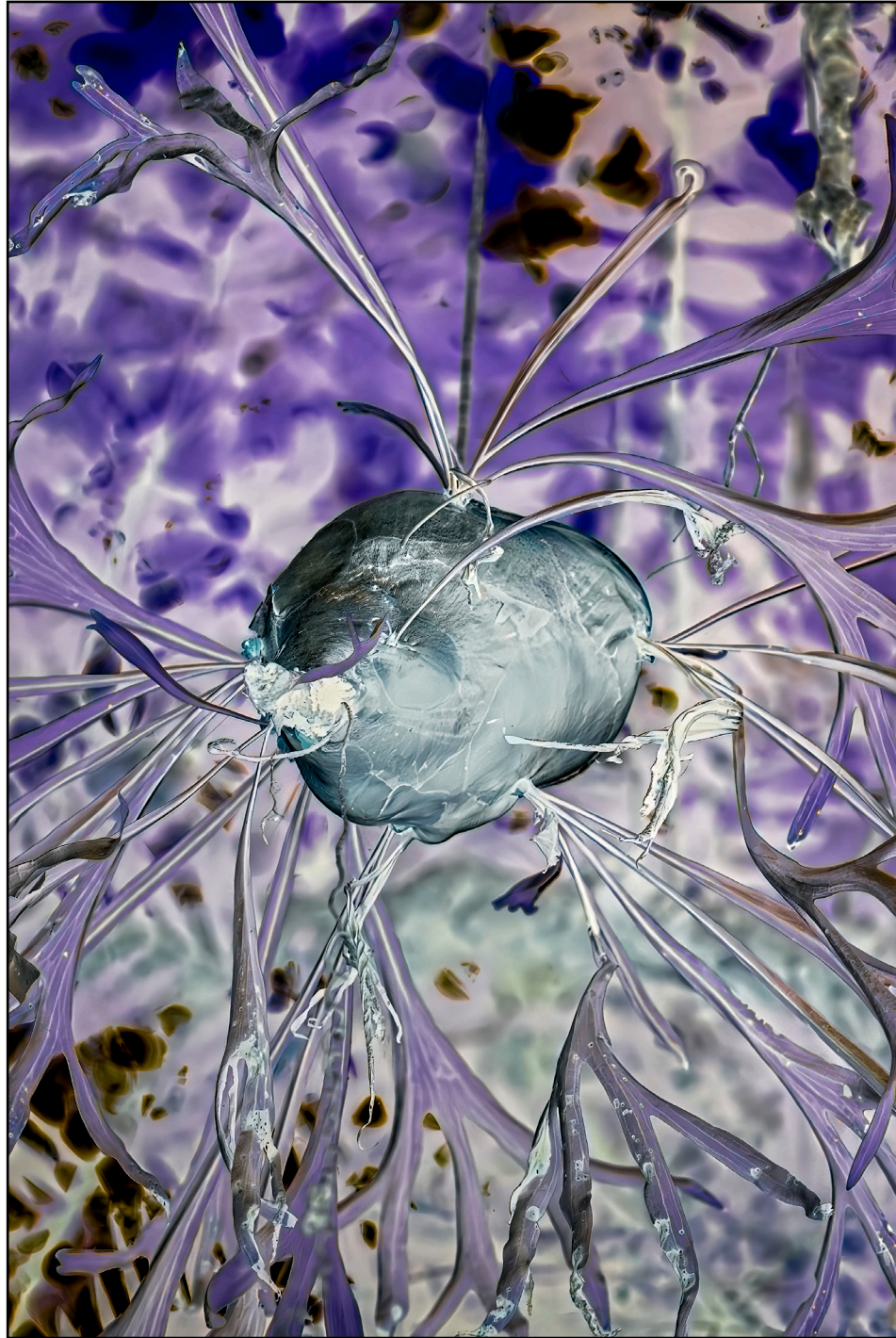


*Protection*



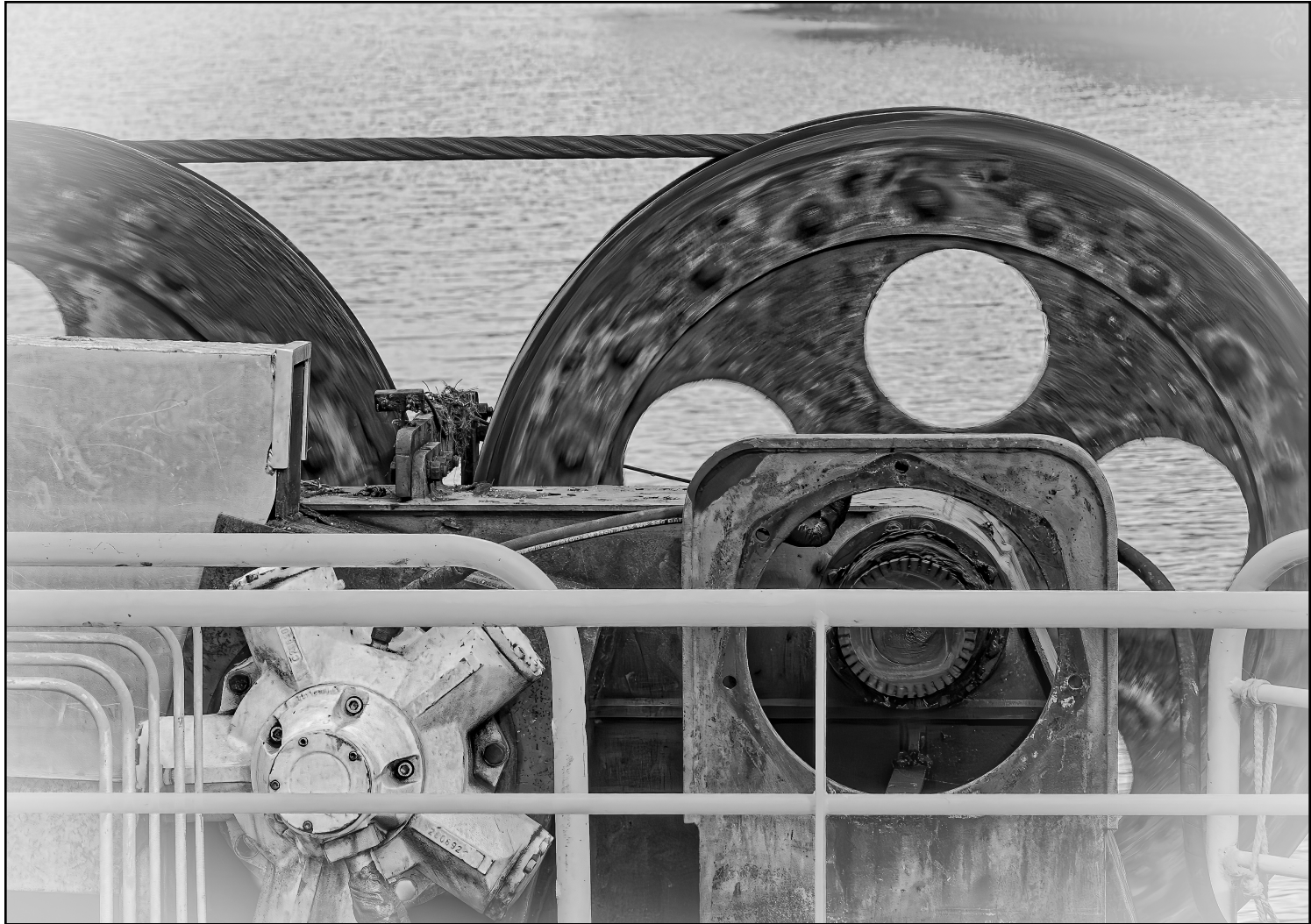






*Pod Cast*









*Reaching*





*Intent*





*Drawn In*



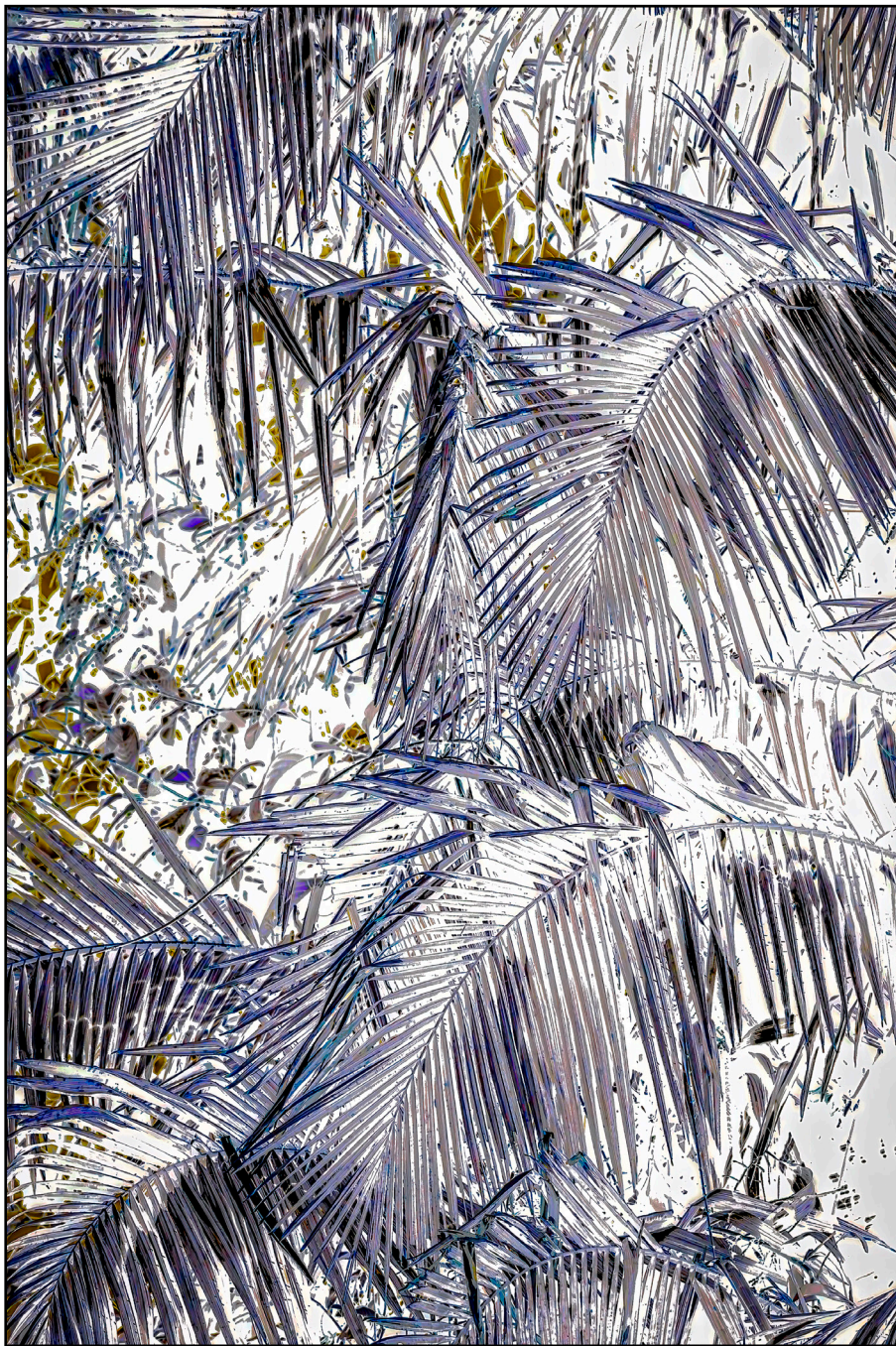


*Angling*

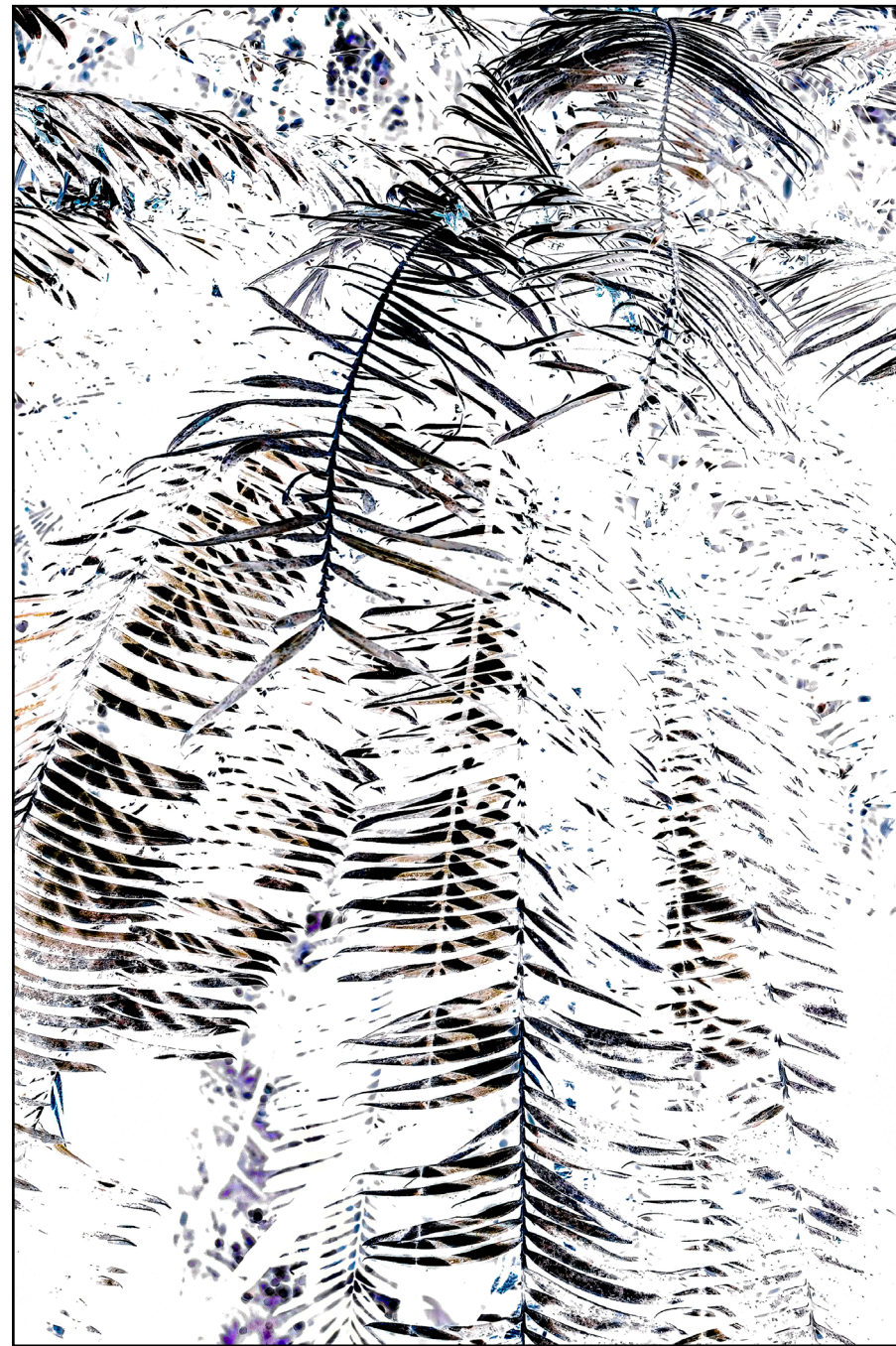








*Fronds In Shadow*



*Fronds Exposed*





*Alluvial*





## After the storm

Cyclones are a fact of life in the Wet Tropics. Forming over the ocean, they batter the coast with winds up to 200km/hr. The resulting damage can be very patchy with some areas devastated while others remain intact.

Unpredictable winds, the layout of surrounding hillsides and previous damage to the canopy are all factors in the destruction equation. Here a section of the canopy was damaged by Cyclone Rona in February, 1999.

Increased light stimulates the growth of waiting understorey trees and shrubs. Leaves shoot from the trunks and branches of damaged trees and the forest begins to repair itself.



# My Artistic Mission

## Child-like wonder and inquisitiveness

are qualities frequently put aside once we become adults. We tend to slowly become sterilized by our right-or-wrong kind of world which too often has too little time to explore the what-if's and the what-could-be's. I believe we all need to re-connect with these qualities to re-enrich our lives. A first glance at a photograph of an onion often reveals the fact that, indeed, it is an onion. But what also lies beneath its surface? We won't know until we peel back its layers.

Animation innovator, Walt Disney, recognized this and tried to bring back the power and importance of imagination. Inspired by his spirit, my mission therefore is to encourage the use of viewer imagination. My work attempts to explore and suggest what often lies hidden within the personalities and mysteries present in the world that was, and the world that is around us.

For me, my photography often is not so much about the decisive moment. Rather, it is about creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery. It is the starting point for my artistic journey, not the destination. I try to use what I produce

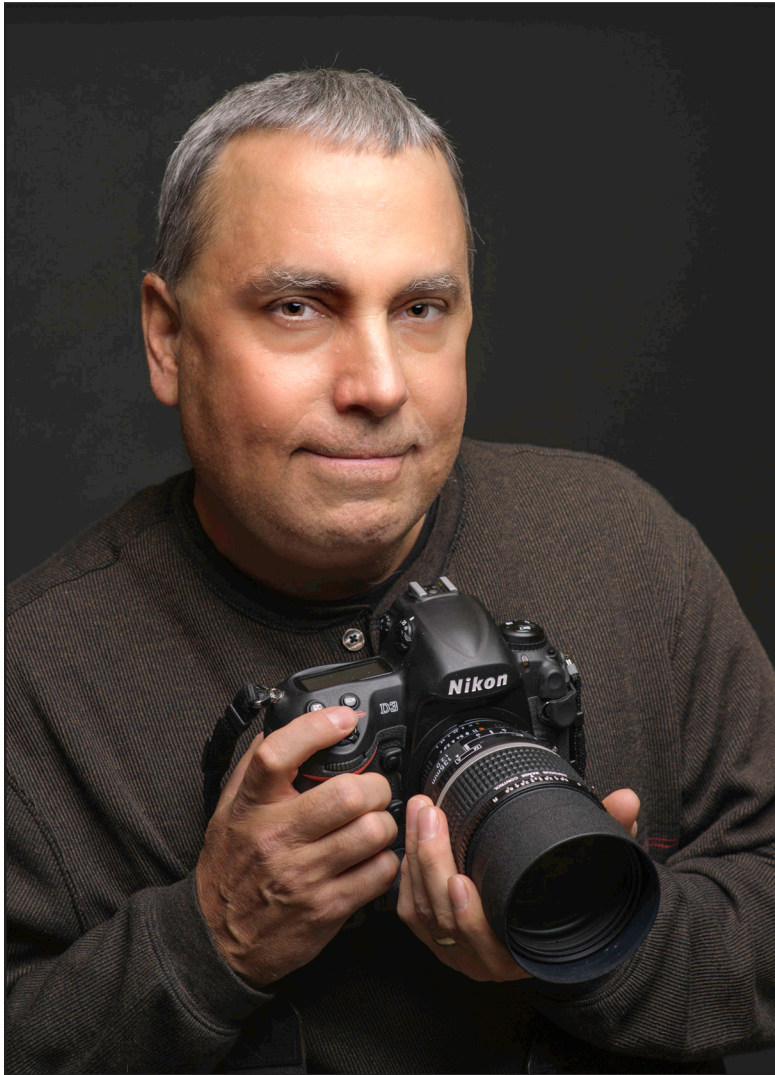
as personal metaphors for my reactions to what I saw and felt. My favorite motivational quote is that "Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone." My works attempt to reflect this as I probe the emotional, mind's eye after-image that was captured by both the eye and the heart, and which often defies logical explanation by the mind.

My goal is that my projects will serve as a springboard into inventiveness and exploration with the hopes of awakening my viewer's inner child. I try hard to show the connections and implications of things that others may not readily see. My hope is that my work may also help viewers discover the beginnings of their attempt to understand and perhaps even learn to tolerate and sympathize with the human condition and the world in which we live. I will try to do whatever I can to make viewers linger longer in front of my works so as to ignite their imaginative response through discovery and inquisitiveness.

Any image found within this book or on my website is available as a print purchase. Just email me at [jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com), or visit my website at [jerrygrasso.com](http://jerrygrasso.com).

Enjoy life!





**JERRY GRASSO** has been an award-winning, international fine art photographer and visual artist since 2002. He has mentored locally with photographer, [Mallorie Ostrowitz](#), and then with internationally-renowned visual artist, [John Paul Caponigro](#). Photography is only the starting point for many of his projects. His favorite motivational quote is that “Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone.”

In addition to his travel photography, Jerry specializes in the intimately abstracted architectural photography, the photo essay, and the photo composite series.

Jerry’s mission is to awaken his viewer’s inquisitive inner child by creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery.





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