

Donald M. Kratt

Artist Statement

I try to distill and isolate meaningful moments through photography. Black and white film photography is to me like rubbing a piece of charcoal on a piece of paper placed over the rough edges of the world. Black and white film recalls for me the expressiveness I felt when I first drew with pencil, charcoal, and pen and ink: these gave me my earliest joys in making art: *my* art, important to me primarily.

I like to analyze moments, and people, and myself. The fleeting seconds I spend in the moment of seeing are not enough time to do this properly. I can spend hours re-looking at a single photo of mine that has made an impact on me, noting the shadows and light, shapes, and unexpected alignments and surprises. I am hoping to instinctively see these same things in the future in newly experienced fleeting moments. And, of course, I am hoping to capture those moments with a camera, to see what I missed.

Given the large amount of imagery seen by all of us in our modern world, it is asking a lot of anyone to devote any attention more than a fleeting glance to any new photograph. I hope to create a pause, a moment in others, where what has captured my attention is successfully communicated and understood.