

Jon Scott Anderson

My photographic images are connected to a long lineage of land & cityscape based work informed by my background in painting and filmmaking. With classical Chinese painting's aesthetics that balance the polarities of near and far and empty and full as essential to a vision of the world, and with the language of film where multiple images are montaged together to form a narrative.

Each of my images is realized by working it much like a painting so as the iconic character of the subject lessens they become more about a response to the pattern languages found in them. Each builds a version about place by utilizing the two defining characteristics of written classical Chinese poetry, graphic form and empty grammar. They speak with the formal gesture of a Kanji character by engaging the viewer in a dialectic between the indexical and its meaning.

The gathering of photographic images in order to understand a place is about repeatedly going out and re-seeing it. This process aligns it with the history of walking - accessing & revealing both the spirit and matter of things over time. From the visual [diary](#) of these wanderings comes the studio practice of assembling and re-setting the parts much like how a Japanese garden is constructed, balancing its elements poised between the natural and the composed.

Just as Sergei Eisenstein theorized that film montage could create ideas or have an impact beyond the individual images, I believe that my final still images also create a "tertium quid" (third thing) that speak a language that is accepted as "whole", reflective of how the memory of a place is a composite of sensory fragments of experience.

What emerges as seen shared between the natural and the cultural is a sense of fragility, transience, chance and mystery - gesturally echoing each other and speaking to how things are transformed and pass away.

Anderson's background in painting (Kansas City Art Institute, BFA) and in filmmaking (Syracuse University, M.F.A.) inform his images. He has exhibited his films, videos and photography internationally with one person shows in New York City, Kansas City and Tokyo. His photos are in many corporate collections e.g. the Sprint Corporation, Hallmark, Capital One Services, Inc., Lathrop & Gage, Emprise Bank, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, Spenser Fane Britt & Browne, as well as many private collections.