

d r e a m s c a p e s

p h o t o g r a p h y b y p a u l h o c k e t t



What is a dreamscape? The term itself is nebulous, hard to pin down. We see images of varying styles, the dream may be real or surreal, half remembered reality or a pure work of imagination, light or dark. Electricity flashing through our neurons, some random and some not so random, gives rise to these flights of fancy. Thus the term is sufficiently ambiguous to be applied to many types of picture – be it a utopian landscape, a nightmare factory or a mundane office; in short, anything that can be found in a dream could strictly be viewed as a dreamscape.

Sometimes the dreamscape is indeed present only in the slumbering imagination; a sublime creation given form in your head, as real as anything in the ‘external’ world. But the term may also be a waking signifier, used to denote a scene or situation that doesn’t seem grounded in reality. An overly lucid landscape, discontinuities, incongruous objects or bizarre actions. Anything out of the ordinary, or something so ordinary it can’t possibly be real.

My take on dreamscapes focuses on these wakeful connotations of the word, a dreamlike scape. The series concentrates on scenes from waking life which somehow transcend that boundary into the dream-like. Places you see when you’re half awake or half asleep; daydreaming or perhaps seeing more clearly than normal, a place which seems like it should not take physical form. Most often these places are beautiful, seen through a fog but imbued with a bright clarity. Like a hazy summers afternoon that provokes an intangible feeling of otherworldness, the mind latches onto this tentative dreamstate and – like a siren calling you home – it evokes a wish to sleep, to dream and forget the rest. A whimsical toy I once owned bore the legend “the happy day passed like a dream”, and this is the feeling I strive for, not simply something which may be from a dream, but the stronger image that should be from life, but isn’t.

For more information, more pictures and ordering details visit www.monkeyinfez.net. Alternatively, email info@monkeyinfez.net, or phone Paul on 0115 9630637.



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