



# Kent Barrett

## Artist's Statement

Kent Barrett is an artist/photographer who lives and works in St. John's Newfoundland.

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January 13, 2008

Photography has been a constant companion throughout my life. For thirty -five years I worked almost exclusively in b&w and was a strict Cartier-Bresson-type 35-mm-full-frame "moment" purist obsessed with quality gelatin/silver printing. But with the advent of (relatively) inexpensive graphics computers and digital cameras in the 1990s I began to move—not away from silver—but *towards* the digital realm and the freedom that these modern tools provide.

At present I am engaged in producing an exhibition (*Wild! Flowers!*) of works which are entirely digital from capture to print. Two of the pieces I submit today are from that series. That I can, using only a digital "pocket" camera and a computer, produce colourful and evocative images is a mystery and a joy to me.

Yet, what I call the visual process, the creative force that compels me to produce has not changed. This is the "thing" inside me that tells me when a composition is correct. It is the same regardless of what instrument I'm using. The thing that tells me when a silver print is perfect also tells me, in the case of computer manipulation, when to stop.

So, here I am. One day silver printing will fade from everyday utility and take its place beside the deguerreotype, the cyanotype and the other methods in the history of photography, and so *will what I am doing now*. The process evolves, the process continues and the process remains the same.

Enjoy.

-Kent Barrett

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