



Fernando González Casanueva Four Photographs

by
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LEFT - "Lago Correntoso", Villa La Angostura, Neuquén, Argentina, 1998. Sinar camera and Sinaron S 150 mm optics. Two 4" x 5" sheets were exposed at f. 16 2/3, for 1/2 second, no filter. T-Max 100 film, I.E. 50. Low tones located in Zone III higher ones in Zone VII. Normal developing using ABC developer at 20°C, for 9 minutes. Printed onto Galerie paper grade 2.

ABOVE - Villa La Angostura, Neuquén, Argentina 2001 "Sinar 4 x 5 camera and Rodenstock 270 mm lens. Tri-x Professional 320 film, I.E. 200. Contrast: N+1; low tones in Zone II and high tones in Zone VII. Exposure at f. 22 for 2 seconds. U.V filter plus a middle yellow K2 (2X). Normal developing using HC-110 developer, dilution 1/62 at 20°C for 9 minutes. Printed onto Galerie paper grade 2, developed with Dektol 1+3 at 20°C for 3 minutes. Final tone given with selenium 1/16 for 2.5 minutes.

Fernando González Casanueva was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1957. At fourteen, he was seduced by photography and has continued ever since, always searching for knowledge and trying to explore the possibilities that large format could provide to his creativity. His first professor was the school photographer in his hometown, Luján. In 1987, his father encouraged him to go to Buenos Aires and study with two important photographers of that time: Walter Aramayo and Carlos Mainardi. There he learned about monochrome images, and how to work with large format.

Once he became a professional, he participated in several national and international exhibitions, achieving many awards. His photographs were published in magazines, catalogs, and even in special editions such as the *Year Book*, British edition, in 1993.



Corteza, Hojas, Villa La Angostura, Río Negro. Argentina 2002. Plate 209. High tones prevail. Sinar 4" x 5" camera and Sinaron S 150 mm lens. Tri-X Professional 320 film, I.E. 200. Contrast: N-1; low tones in Zone III and high tones in Zone VI. Exposure at f/16 for 1 second with a yellow filter K2 (2X). Expansion developing N+1 using HC-110 developer, dilution 1/31 at 20°C for 6.5 minutes. Printed on Galerie paper grade 3, developed with Dektol 1+3 at 20°C for 3 minutes. Final tone given with selenium 1/16 for 2' 30".

In 1994, he moved to the United States to study and learn more about Ansel Adams' work. In 2001, he published the book *Zone Systems*, the result of his fascination with the technique Adams developed around 1940. This system provides a precise method to define the relationship between the way the artist sees the objects and the final result captured by the camera. Fernando tries to make it applicable to the modern, more sensitive materials of the 21st century.

After a lifetime of experience, the artist discovered the importance of "order," absolute control of the "know-how" and techniques (including possibilities and limits of the large format camera, supports, timing, film developers, temperatures, etc.), and, last but not least, the importance of the "aesthetic content," which happens to be the real essence of photography. Equilibrium — balance between feelings and theory — is the gateway to the unique vision of the artist.



"Cariló, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2002" Plate 234. High tones prevail. Sinar 4 x 5 camera and Sinaron W 90 mm lens. Tri-x Professional 320 film, I.E. 200. Contrast: N-1; low tones in Zone II and high tones in Zone V. Exposure at f. 22 for 1/2 second. Filter middle yellow K2 (2X). Normal developing using HC-110 developer, dilution 1+31 at 20°C for 6.5 minutes. Printed in Kodak Fine Art paper grade 2, developed with Dektol 1/2 at 20°C for 3 minutes. Final tone given with selenium 1/16 for 3 minutes.

He has created interesting series during his career. Always applying the zone system techniques, he produced the "Trees" series between 1994-2002, taking pictures in different sites all over Argentina, as well as Maryland in the U.S., capturing the enormous beauty of nature. Quoting Adams, Fernando said, "This technique allows me to visualize the final image in my mind before shooting" — certainly an exciting way to calm anxiety, eliminate doubts, and avoid future frustrations.

Here we have four images of that impeccable work of art.