


## Submission "Im Nebel" – Series Category by Katharina Aemmer Bechtel

### Reviewer Feedback




**TITLE**  
Submission "Im Nebel"

**STATEMENT**  
Hallo,  
  
Der verbindende Leitfaden der Bilder ist Nebel, der die Natur melancholisch einpackt. Das Gedicht von Hermann Hesse "Im Nebel" illustriert besser als ich meine Bilder :

" Im Nebel  
  
Seltsam, im Nebel zu wandern!  
  
Einsam ist jeder Busch und Stein,  
  
Kein Baum sieht den anderen,  
  
Jeder ist allein.  
  
Voll von Freunden war mir die Welt,  
  
Als noch mein Leben licht war;  
  
Nun, da der Nebel fällt,

↗ Enter Fullscreen



### Hello Katharina

I have taken some time to study your series, titled, "Im Nebel", looking for visual clues that point to what you are trying to accomplish with your photography practice. Looking through the portfolio I feel like this is very much a cohesive series – visually and conceptually a creative, thoughtful study of the mysteries in these foggy woodland scenes. You include an insightful, poetic statement (by Herman Hesse) about your photography. You say that, "The connecting guideline of the pictures is Fog, which melancholy packs nature."

This series captures the haunting nature of the deep, dark forest. Your collection of photos are mysterious portraits of primeval locations, dreamlike and poetic. The scenes spark the imagination, appearing to be the magical forests in fairy tales.

The trees and moody atmosphere are your source of creative inspiration. With this project you create composites, not through Photoshop, but with actual layers upon layers of trees - to reveal fascinating visual observations! Your images also show that you are aware of this intimate relationship between these natural forest beings and the emotions of human beings.

I see your photos as painterly and, in a way, shadowy compositions of tonality, texture, and shadow. And I see that you are fascinated by the way the positioning of overlapping leaves, branches, and trunks can create painterly designs, especially when the frame isolates the subject matter from its surroundings. The organic structures and the textures in the frame define new visual structures in space.

Your impressionistic photos remind us all of the wonders the forest holds and the interdependence we have with these earthly beings. Your portfolio also reminds us of their inherent beauty!

I think your creative observations are very unique. From a practical perspective, you walk throughout the forest, photograph these scenes, move in and out of light and shadow while looking for what catches your eye. I think this is a good description of what a lot of photographers do. Out of the infinite photographic possibilities that arise around you, these meaningful compositions are most likely to catch YOUR eye – the same scenes that go mostly unnoticed by others. Then, you frame the images and create new perspectives of what you saw and photographed. Your thoughtful attention to these subjects and the way they relate to the viewer of the photos creates images that influence the way other people see these natural, environmental subjects.

On the surface these images have a type of visual complexity that concentrates on surface structure and rich tonality, but I also find them to be conceptually complex! These photos create a sense of mood, atmosphere, and drama. The designs lead the eye up, down, and throughout the frame in a way that makes the viewer feel as though they may have walked by these scenes and not noticed them.

To me, the photos are interesting because they blur the line between art photography, painting, and historical photos from the pictorialist movement. I find that your statement and Hesse's poem perfectly aligns with the images, yet you could say even more! It would be great to hear more of your thoughts, your inspirations.

I know that a statement wasn't required for this entry but it would be helpful for you and the viewer if you could develop more of a statement, telling the viewer about your inspiration for the photos you make. It's important to be able to express those ideas in an artist statement. An artist statement will help orient the viewer to what you are interested in regarding your photography and what you feel is happening with the photography. Thinking about your approach and what you are trying to accomplish will help shed some light on how to continue to formulate a unique style. It will help bring more depth to the viewer's understanding of the photos and more understanding about your own creative process. I will make some suggestions at the end of the review.

Your visual observations are clearly important characters in your stories. I think you are also asking that the viewer be sensitive enough to look deeply at your images, to see the details you have included in the frame and to consider the how the haunting environments relate to the size and texture of the organic forms. Some of your compositions are abstract (especially while looking at them on a computer screen). They focus on shapes with little indications of scale and orientation (photos 1, 4, and 7). If scale does exist, it is only in the imagination of the viewer. The viewer tried to find their bearings by bringing their own experiences of forest walks to the photos. And while the viewer explores, he/she is confronted with bringing their own imagination to the scenes.

I definitely see that you captured patterns, textures, and shapes that point to isolated “places” that may be hard to locate. In all the photos there is a kind of ambience that is a kaleidoscope of trees, mysterious, and full of drama. The images also function in a way that communicates your experience to the viewer. Anyone that is willing to set aside their compulsion to have to identify every part of what they are looking at will relate to the feelings and emotions your images communicate. For me, I sense solitude and loneliness in these photos.

The photos in this series talk about the way we are so closely related to the natural environment and how fragile it is. We are physically interdependent with these towering beings as living creatures on this earth. In addition, they are beautiful photographic subjects! Each scene, like each person, has its own personality, physical characteristics, and emotional expressiveness. Because of this, I have thought about suggestions for where you could go from here. But, before I make a suggestion please know that I think your series is technically beautiful and conceptually interesting.

My first observation/suggestion is about presentation. I can imagine these photos printed large, to inspire feelings of awe by creating a sense of scale for the viewer. Large-scale presentation could prompt the viewer to feel small when confronted by the ideas of standing in front of these haunting designs. Viewers would feel confronted with unexpected perspectives and that could inspire creative interpretations.

My next observation/suggestion also has to do with presentation. I suggest that the photos would be effective in a coffee table book. I think your ideas, combined with the photos will make a more cohesive presentation. Also with a book, the viewer can hold the images, making the interaction more personal. The title of the book could be the same as the series!

Your images are very dynamic. They are full of observations and questions about life and beauty in the forest! Your images prove that being creative with your images is very exciting and who knows where it will lead. Also, don't feel like you need to be married to the photography world. My advice is that you enter juried art exhibitions and/or show your work within art communities. I think that your images would do well in an “art” environment. Your photos really do cross a lot of boundaries, which is highly encouraged in the art world. I suggest you keep an eye on [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org) for themed calls for artists.

I have enjoyed looking at your photos and it is clear that photography is one of your passions! Your images and your project are very thought provoking and creative. They are full of stories waiting to be discovered! I would strongly encourage you to keep pursuing your ideas. But, look at lots of portfolios and really challenge yourself to keep doing something unique, that you haven't ever seen. I very much enjoyed looking at your photos and I appreciate the way your images are masterfully considered and carefully designed. I hope my review is helpful. I hope my words answered your question and I look forward to seeing what you will do next!