

**The word "creation" implies adding something to the universe. And I don't think man adds to the universe. I think man is a very extraordinary part of the universe for he demonstrates the unique capability to discover and intellectually identify abstract, operative principles of the universe.**

R. Buckminster Fuller

The gathering of meaning is an idea that permeates all of my work, both in concept and creation. My photographic images represent a documentation of reality, coming from places we all inhabit and interact within. Using the original image as a starting point, I examine the significance it contains and find new interpretations of the reality it presents.

As a piece progresses through the creative process, it is continuously reinterpreted. Although the initial ideas of the photograph remain present, they soon take on a life of their own and present an alternative reality to the original document. I represent this growth of ideas by using a pliant surface in which there is always the possibility of change. The interactive layering of symbols, objects or marks with my photographic subjects creates a connection of ideas and possibilities within the picture plane, providing an energy that drives the meaning forward while allowing the play necessary to the creative process.

Each work progresses as the search for a message- finding a new interpretation of the initial image which will reveal an alternative possibility to the photographic reality. The narrative that develops as the creative process for each piece unfolds culminates in a finished piece that is the result of countless decisions and possibilities, all of which leave a residue of information in the finished work for viewers to discover.

**All of my work has a personal meaning that becomes infinite once introduced to the viewing public. It is my hope that viewers can find their own interpretation of the ideas and images I present, making them their own.**

**Joshua Watts**

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