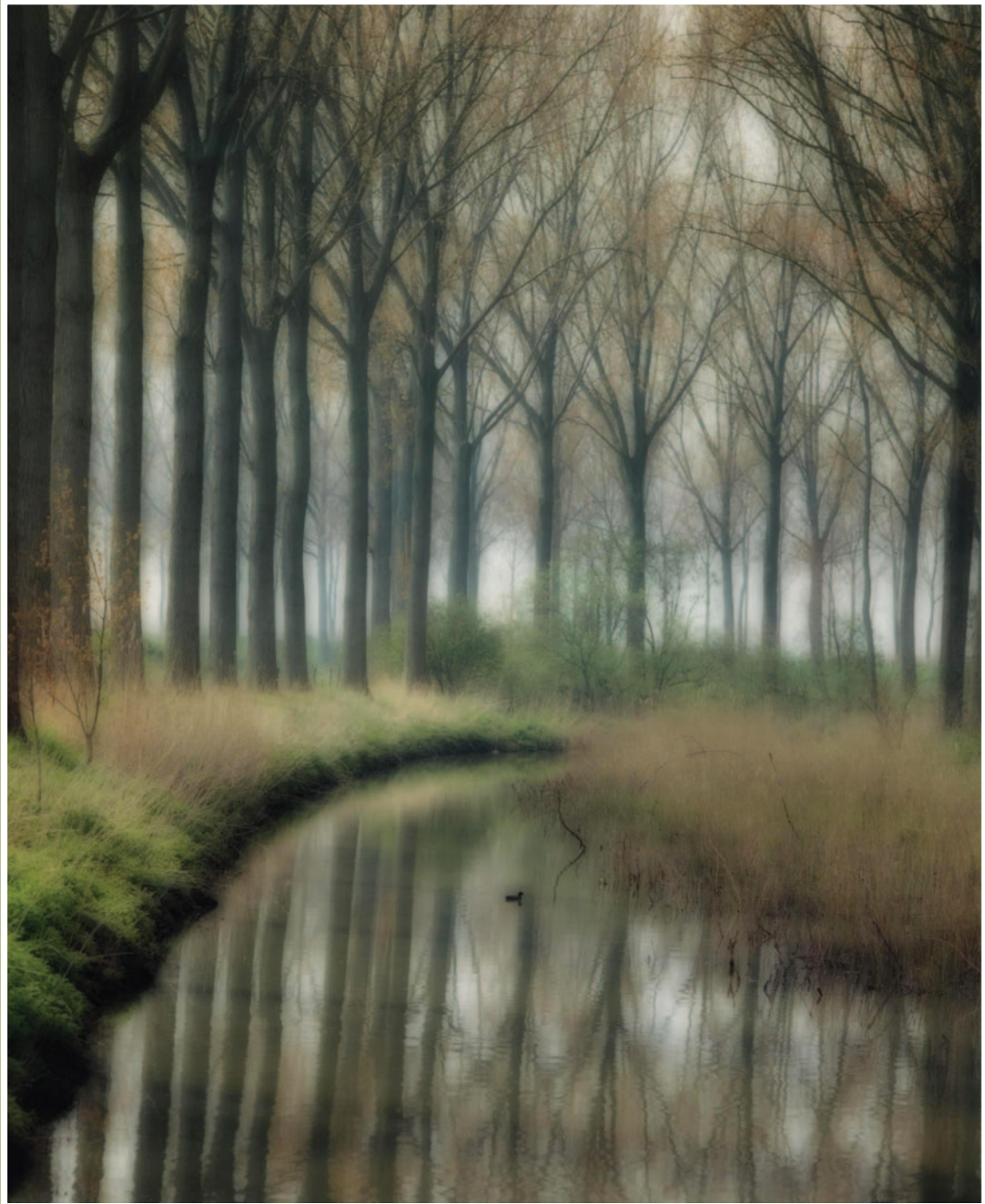


Bush Foundation

Giving **STRENGTH**

Courageous Leaders ~ Vibrant Communities



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Artifice and nature

Photographer Lynn Geesaman (BAF'91) had no formal training in the fine arts. Her degree from Wellesley College was in physics and mathematics. While working as a physicist in a nuclear weapons lab in California, she met her husband (also a physicist). They moved to Edina, Minnesota, where she taught math in middle school while their daughters were in high school and college.

Geesaman came to photography late in life, but by her 50s she was an internationally exhibited and widely acknowledged photographer. In her words, "I was successful beyond my wildest dreams."

Her works are instantly recognizable, both from the luminescent aura of her printing technique and by the marginal spaces between artifice and nature that she takes as her subjects. Her early photography was exclusively black and white, highly graphic, with careful attention to geometric forms. In more recent years, she has begun to work in color as well. The techniques and choice of subject are much the same, but with the introduction of color, the effect is almost Impressionistic.

"I love making these images and crafting them to my ideal in the darkroom. That they are widely appreciated is both a joy and a pleasant surprise to me. I have had the good fortune to be dealt a winning hand, and I intend to play it out."

Of her career, she said, "Success didn't come easily; it required discipline, much experimenting and endless hard work. My success was enabled by generous local grants and fellowships, which provided me the travel resources to discover and define my subjects; by four MacDowell Colony residences, which gave me the opportunity to refine my printing technique; and by the unqualified support of my husband, which allowed me to work without the constraint of prior expectations. Paradoxically, I think I also benefited from not having an MFA, as I would likely have come away with a bunch of dogmatic inhibitions that would have stifled me."

Lynn Geesaman's photographs have led to three books (Poetics of Place, Gardenscapes, and Hazy Lights and Shadows), many exhibitions, and inclusion in numerous private and public collections. Her work is available through the Thomas Barry Gallery (www.thomasbarry.com/geesaman.html).

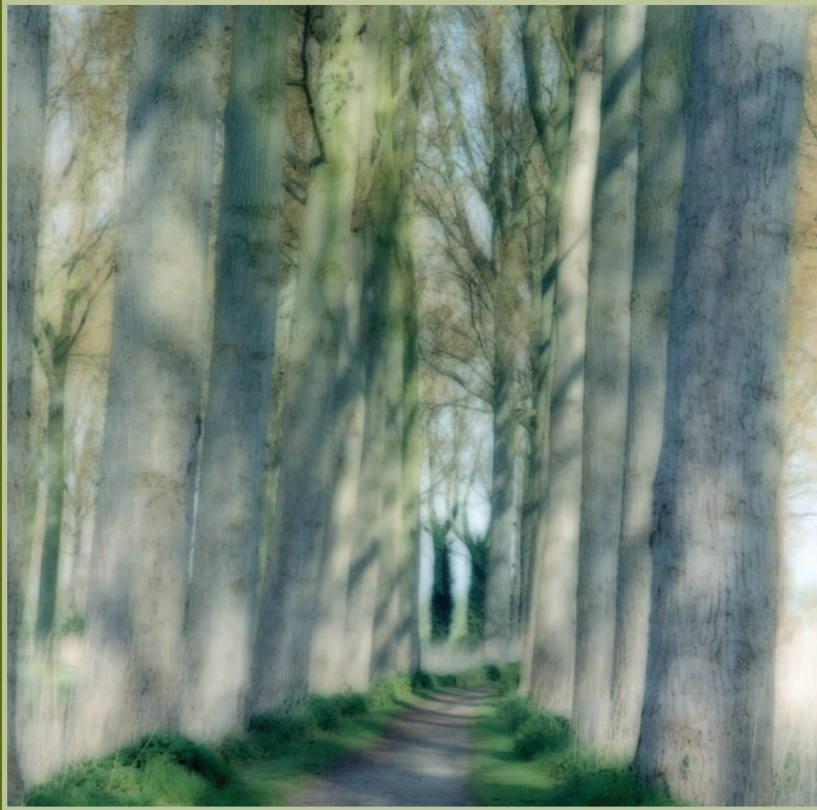


Lynn Geesaman (BAF'91)





Crathes Castle Garden, Near Aberdeen, Scotland, 1994
Chromogenic print by Lynn Geesman (BAF'91)



Damme, Belgium, 2004
Chromogenic print by Lynn Geesman (BAF'91)

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth; . . .

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost (1874–1963)
“The Road Not Taken” from
Mountain Interval, 1920



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