

THE 'GHOSTBRIDE' QUARTET

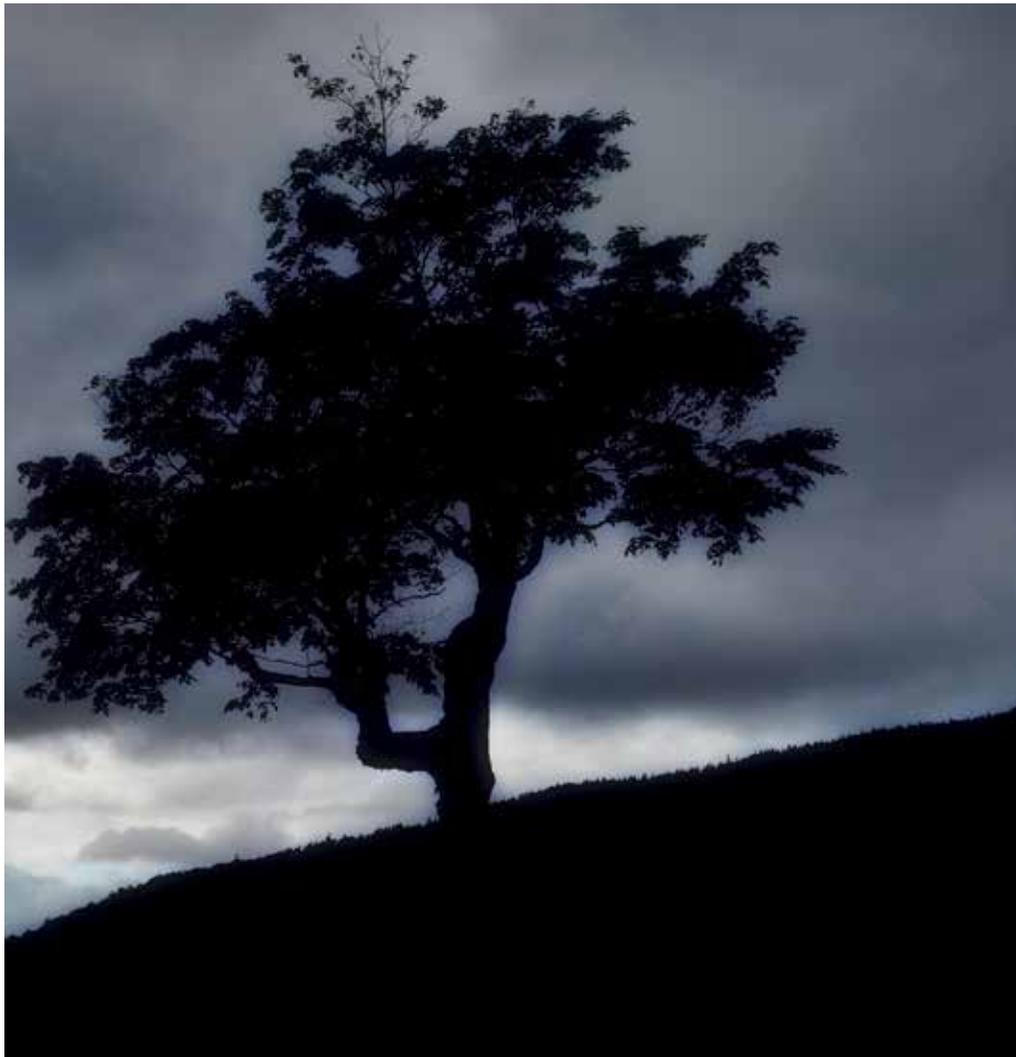
Judith Martinez

My work alters fragments from the past to create a present. I try to tap into the unconscious mind and treat the layers of memory and thought as an archaeologist would a dig-site. I displace people from antique images and create new landscapes around them, exploring human identity and the notion of the individual through time and place.

The landscapes are stitched digitally from photographs I have taken in various locations, thus creating altered realities for my subjects to inhabit. As I rework these photographs of strangers, I develop an intimacy with them—they become part of my thought process, and

I cannot help but create new narratives. I feel sadness towards these anonymous figures—who were they and why has the memory of them been discarded? What comment are we making about our own identities as we dispense with such images?

There are different elements to my work: collecting, layering and (manual and digital) construction to create a visual map for people to follow. I experiment with different materials in the production of the large photo media works—the printing techniques I am currently using create an illusion of movement, adding a sense of gentle surrealism to the pieces.



JM

on a body of water uncharted our love comes trailing



Although printed on metal there is a fluidity to the appearance of the work. This is achieved in the digital layering process by playing with perspective and photographic depth of field.

The 'Ghostbride' quartet takes its name and inspiration from Deb Westbury's poem, published in 'Winter in Stone Country'. These four photo-media pieces are a visual interpretation of the text: the cool blues of the landscape, the sadness, melancholy and stillness of winter and solitude.

Deb Westbury has a way of capturing emotion without being sentimental, and I wanted to create the same feelings of waiting and heartache without making the images cloying. The birds, which appear on the four images, are a representation of the distance between the two central characters, and a symbol and manifestation of their love crossing through landscapes and reaching one another when they could not physically be together. They are the 'love letters' exchanged between the two.

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in its ruined wake bouquets of orange blossom sediments of ash

