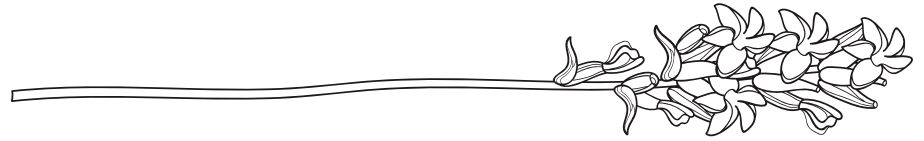
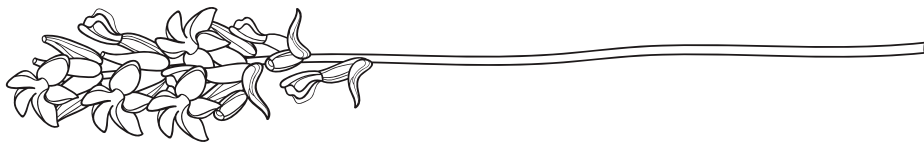


Virtual



LAVENDER



Labels

DAVID BENJAMIN SHERRY

(American, b. 1981)

*Sunrise on Mesquite Flat Dunes,
Death Valley, California,*

2013 / printed 2016

Chromogenic print | 51 1/2 x 41 1/2 in.

The Alfond Collection of Contemporary Art at Rollins College, Gift of Barbara '68 and Theodore '68 Alfond, 2016.3.26. Image courtesy of the artist, Moran Bonaroff, Los Angeles, and Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco.



David Benjamin Sherry is a New-Mexico-based photographer and darkroom printer known for his vibrant monochromatic images of the American landscape. Using a large format 8 by 10 camera and analog film processing, his work reimagines this land, its history, and its future. As a gay man, his photography utilizes iconography and color theory to encode queer meaning, favoring simplicity above all compositional elements. While Sherry's landscapes do not include people, they are accessed through an Environmentalist lens, and examine the extreme impact on climate change and exploitation of natural resources.

Additionally, he imposes a dose of “queer sensibility,” or experimental, aesthetic investigation of gender and sexuality onto his artistic narratives.

In the series *Wonderful Land*, Sherry addresses a grand and contested subject: landscapes of the American West, with its complicated realities and mythologies. It asserts the duality of experiences and histories of the United States, west of the Missouri River, or the 100th meridian. Sunrise on Mesquite Flat Dunes, Death Valley, California, calls attention to the selective promises of liberty: where stolen land and unsustainable living intersect.

The chromogenic print stands in opposition of the male-dominated, heterosexual narratives of American values. Instead, Sherry's constructed landscape champions the resistance and self-determination United States settlers and residents imbue, weaving it into the physical landscape. Belief in the land alone as a source of strength, this reimagined landscape provides a degree of freedom it did not extend to its inhabitants historically.