

## ADVANCE PRAISE FOR POETIC GRACE

First impression of Elizabeth is her boundless energy. To her students or her work, it seems to be endless. The odd part of it is that her photographs are calm, controlled and reflective, especially her latest pictures of water and flowers which are truly beautiful. I hope there will be more years and years of inspired work to come.

Lilo Raymond, Photographer

Elizabeth Opalenik is "writing with light" which is the etymology of the word PHOTOGRAPHY. So, you just have to follow her exceptional body of work, collected all around the world where light is the Queen of the day and you will have a different way of life and be happy to share with her - and her models - the happiness to be in this world, far away from the craziness of many other humans, and you will become a member of her "Fan Club" as I have since...already quite a lot of years!

Lucien Clergue, Photographer

Elizabeth Opalenik's romantic dreams, reveries, and reminiscences held still transfix and transport us with the sensual pleasure of looking.

John Paul Caponigro, Visual Artist

In this long awaited monograph, Elizabeth Opalenik gives her enthusiastic audience a real treat. These luscious and sensual images reflect Opalenik's unique signature style which she has developed over her 25 year career. This book showcases images from her series of mordançage nudes and portraits.

In mordançage, the French word for the technique named and developed by Jean Pierre Sudre, the silver emulsion is chemically lifted, removed or rearranged in the shadow areas of the silver print. The delicate floating veils are Opalenik's contribution to this time consuming process for which she is considered one of the world masters. The images that result from the mordançage process are truly one-of-a-kind. They can never be repeated.

In addition, this book brings together some of Opalenik's stunning nude and flower images involving the sensual, mysterious qualities of water. Every once in a while, an artist comes around that has a truly distinctive way of using materials in a fresh new way. Opalenik is one of these artists. Her work connects us with layers of the worlds that often go unnoticed.

Joyce Tenneson, Photographer

In my thirty years circulating through the photographic community, I have met few individuals who have developed their creative inspiration as richly as Elizabeth. The images that flow from her frequent bursts of inspiration always surprise and delight me. She has the wonderful ability to turn any photographic process into her own unique vision and voice, from infrared to handcoloring to Mordancage. There are more unrestrained creative impulses in her fingers and heart than seems fair in one person.

Reid Callanan, Director of The Santa Fe Photographic Workshops

Elizabeth embodies the very essence of the creative spark. Her images come from her heart and soul. They never look like copies of other artists. They are truly mirrors of her Self.

Matthew A. Budd, M.D., Director F Holland Day Foundation for Healing and Creativity

Elizabeth Opalenik's sense of the beautiful touches every aspect of her life—from her garden to her photographs. The photographs are beautiful in original ways, simultaneously natural, quiet, and arresting. With so many creative arrows for her bow—toning, mordancage, infrared, and digital—her work has breadth as well as depth. In this collection, the theme is water, and she is in her element: forms natural and manmade become luminous and often mysterious through their interplay with water, which reflects, deflects, distorts, and ultimately transforms the subjects to many fluid embodiments of beauty.

Brigitte Carnochan, Photographer

#### WHAT FORMER STUDENTS HAD TO SAY

You have transformed photography, revealed a whole new canvas, invented a new language (which Jean-Pierre saw and appreciated). Your nudes are beyond the usual nudes: some invoke fairy tales others our origin, others, dream or life fragility. In other words, the nudes are no more nudes, they are really what you call Poetic Grace. The water metaphor in many photographs stirs emotions as well... they talk of life and death, of light, the promise, and peace.

Ginette Vachon

It is a brilliant book, Elizabeth, truly brilliant, everything about it, the choices, the arrangement, the photography, the sheer beauty, as John Paul says, the “sensuality” of it. I love the book. It ranks with my all time favorites—books such as Ruth Bernhard and Weston, the real classics. If there was ever a question before, there isn’t now, you are high among them. And those of us who have worked with you and known you, love you.

Thomas Mikelson

With tears in my eyes I viewed your new book. The tears were ones of awe at the beauty you have created and how much that beauty is an expression of your soul. The book is one of my most prized possessions, and you are one of my most prized friends.

Matt Budd

Most impressive was your monograph. It is amazing. The scope of your work just knocked me out. It’s fun looking at some of the images and know that “maybe” I was there when it was made. But the range of the work and it’s heartfelnness is just astounding. I love looking at photography and I am not an art historian by any means, but I can think of very few photographic artists that take the risks that you do. So thank you again for these gifts. And please keep taking risks.

Brian Casey

Your book arrived this weekend and going through it several times and reading every word has been exhilarating! I can’t believe how beautifully your work has reproduced in print – the quality is wonderful! As you know, I’m an ardent admirer of your work; it’s very exciting to have so many of my favorites, along with some I had not seen, all together in this sumptuous collection. I believe you are the most fiercely creative person I’ve ever met! Congratulations!

Carolyn Bross

Your students thank you for the hours which we spent with you and for the spirit for beauty which you passed on to us. Your book has enriched our lives with your talent for seeing within.

Jack and Joan Green

I have received your book. It is beautiful. I don’t think words work for some things in life. This is one of them.

Eric Wiswell

