



Alex Wesche is a self-taught photographer living in Germany.

Alex creates mythical images on her walks with her two hounds in local forests and on vacations. Alex believes there is magic to be found in nature and her passion is to capture that magic with her camera.



ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL - GREAT AND SMALL

Having grown up near a low central German mountain range, I took frequent wilderness walks with my grandparents. Immersed in the living world I learned to appreciate both nature – in particular forests – and stories.

During the 80's, entertainment devices such as television and video games did not play a big role in my early childhood. With limited alternatives, my elders opted to occupy my imaginative mind with myths and legends associated with the locations we visited. And sometimes they just made stories up.

Today, I live near another low mountain range in southern Germany and I continue to take daily walks with my two Spanish sighthounds. The locations that attract and enchant me most are your quintessential places that have long inspired people to create stories. Ancient woodlands. Stone structures. Mountains and hills. Lakes and waterfalls. Old ruins. And of course cemeteries. Places that possess a wild and raw feel. Where mythical creatures lurk in the shadows. Where hidden faces hide behind bark and stone. And where mysterious sights, sounds and smells quicken the senses.

The connection between story and such mystifying locations has stayed with me and to this day fuel my desire to express this connection photographically. So this is what I pursue in my free time off work, on my weekends in neighbouring regions and on travels during vacations.

In addition to nature, I draw inspiration from books – particularly Tolkien – movies, games, paintings and any other source that inspires me to look for illustrative images outside, which in turn enhance the story's evocative power.

The first time I purposefully adopted this approach with my photography was in 2009, when I visited Tolkien's inspiration for Rivendell – Switzerland's Lauterbrunnental. Sensitive of Tolkien's connection to this place motivated me greatly. While my resulting images were typically touristy, they spawned my desire to explore illustration-like photography.

To create such an effect, I often manipulate contrast and colours to strengthen my ideas and I frequently remove modern human elements which detract from the feeling I'm trying to evoke. In this way, I don't consider myself a stereotypical nature photographer.

What's more, I'm not big on planning. I much prefer exploring an area, taking photos of moments and moods as they occur.

While I enjoy taking pictures in the morning, a lack of time and energy prohibits me from doing so often. Fortunately, I also enjoy taking photos when the light and weather conditions are not what are typically considered conducive to landscape photograph. That's because I like the challenge of making the best of a situation. When the light is not ideal, not only does composition become more important, processing often times also becomes more interesting.

For me, photography is a richly rewarding passion. It perfectly caters to wonders I hold dear to my heart. Exploration. Escapism. Childlike curiosity. Total concentration on the action. And absolute immersion in the moment.

The photographs I have chosen in this portfolio are by no means my latest nor necessarily my most technically perfect. Rather, I have selected these images based on my belief that they best express my approach to landscape photography.

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