

## Catalogue Essay

Hedy Ritterman's current exhibition presents seemingly recognizable photographs of urbanscapes and landscapes in paired sequences. A physical rhythm is created between the two images, which evokes a reflexive or 'felt' response. This leads the viewer into a 'perception' (rather than a recognition) enabling the images to take on symbolic or metaphoric qualities that delve into the personal and emotional.

The genesis of this work was the intense emotional experience the artist felt when faced with her husband's illness; lymphoma. She found herself trying to balance the real need for hope, faith, trust and light with the deep feelings of despair, darkness, fear and sadness

A trained psychologist, Ritterman re-investigates aspects of emotional functioning and has used the adaptive and powerful medium of photography as a collaborator to reflect on aspects of her own personality traits. The photographic pairs depict extremes within an entity symbolic of opposing poles within us all. The artist states that her ambition is "to create an aesthetic balance between the two images akin to an oscillating pendulum hovering somewhere between the extremities, paralleling the precarious balance of emotions that results in us *sometimes* behaving one way and *sometimes* times behaving another way".

Hedy suggests that "my images are self revealing but at the same time obscure" and has titled her works by their location while acknowledging each pair represents opposing poles in traits such as introversion/extraversion; concealment / revelation; reverie / reality; earthiness/flightiness; solitude/loneliness; inspiration/cynicism; masculinity/femininity; earnestness and playfulness. She entices the viewer to match the locations with their metaphoric equivalent and has used the differing mediums and formats to further her intention.