

Every Picture Tells a Story

A Living Watercolour

by Gilles Korent



It is midweek in late October. The leaves are showing their autumn colours and are well on their way to disappearing. Even though it is still too early to think about winter, the forecast is calling for a light dusting of snow in the next few days. It is getting windy, and this late in the season the last of the remaining leaves could be gone in no time.

Early Saturday morning arrives, as the snow blankets the ground. After a quick bite to eat, I'm off on one of my regular fall outings – somewhere in Kananaskis Country – searching for moose, deer, and maybe a late-season bear. Regardless of what I may encounter, I'm anticipating an enjoyable trip. Maybe I'll spend some time with a Great Grey Owl ... if I can find one.

As I drive through the rolling hills just outside Calgary, I'm taken aback by the solemn beauty brought about by another change of seasons. I seem to be the only one on the road, and this heavy blanket of fog and mist gives the landscape a mysterious and eerie feeling. It is thick – so thick that you can hardly discern the nearby hillsides – but thankfully the road remains clear.

It is now mid-morning, and the appearance of the landscape quickly changes as the light breeze begins to chase the pockets of fog away. Near and far, the undulating landscape mystically appears and disappears in tune with the constantly changing mist. Because this magical dance is not going to last long, I need to stop, absorb and record this majestic scene, so I take out my Nikon D300 and start shooting.

The few leaves that remain on the trees are unveiled to reveal a subdued palette of colours standing out against the whitewashed landscape. As the sun struggles to break through the fog to highlight the beauty of the sporadic foliage, the scene becomes reminiscent of a living watercolour painting.

As late morning arrives, the warmth of the sun and the light wind have completely cleared out the fog blanket – returning everything back to 'normal.' I find a good spot to park, eat my small lunch and reflect on the experience. I may not have encountered any moose, deer or pre-hibernation bears, but I did enjoy another one of nature's many wonders: a quiet and painterly morning.

Gilles Korent is a nature and wildlife photographer based in Calgary. A selection of his prints are available at the *Branded Visuals Wildlife Gallery* in Bragg Creek, as well as via his website: www.wildlife-expressions.com

