

# Artist Statement - 'An Austrian Gorge'

Gorges are magical places, where the land is split and mountains are divided. The alpine canyons were formed in the last ice age around 10,000 years ago and have been changing ever since, albeit ever so slowly. Time and water has shaped and sculptured their curved walls with the seasons. Right after the winter the big thaw begins, which amounts to a sudden thunder of white water gushing through the narrowest parts of the Alps. The noise of nature, in full force relieves itself as it prepares itself for the next season.

I was drawn to photograph these gorges as I've always lived close to the sea, these gorges are Austria's shores. The wildness of the sea can also be found in the gorge. While Austria maybe missing its coastline, there are smooth pebbles, rocks to climb upon, hidden coves to be discovered, the sound of crashing water and even sand. The aquatic life that use to exist is preserved permanently as fossils in the walls and stones. A history of seashells, shark teeth, ammonites, sea urchins and sea snails can be found in many of these ravines.

In photographing this project, I hope to capture the narrowness, the curves, the shapes and how each "Klamm" has its own unique identity. They are timeless wonders in comparison to our own lives. Many were opened as tourist attractions in the late 1800's in the images captured at this time very little, if anything has changed. The rock geology on offer is quite diverse even in a single location.

There are well over hundred to choose from. Some are more popular while others remain hidden away by only a small sign leading you up a path into a forest or by asking a local farmer to point you in the right direction.

On overcast days, when the sky is completely white or gray from clouds, this creates an even and soft light. The lightbox of the sky as I call it, will let you photograph without the worry of having a bright sky casting dark shadows. Allowing you to capture the full beauty of these narrow rock wonders, curves, shapes and form.

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