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Artist's Statement

After many years working as a commercial photographer, I now value the freedom to work without expectation. Since I no longer photograph for assignment or outcome, what remains is a quieter practice—one shaped by time, familiarity, and the pleasure of sustained looking. The camera has become a way of keeping company with the world rather than describing it.

The images I make now are rooted in ordinary encounters: a pair of figures resting at the edge of a landscape, an animal half-present and half-withheld, a moment of private concentration. I am drawn to what reveals itself slowly, often with a trace of humor or tenderness. These photographs are less about subject matter than about attention—about staying with a scene long enough for it to become itself. Age, memory, and the passage of time hover in these images, not as themes to be declared, but as conditions quietly felt.

My recent collaborative books with poet Ken Owen grow out of this sensibility. Together, we explore how photographs and poems can coexist without explanation—each leaving space for the other, and for the reader. The photographs I contribute are made with that same openness, inviting reflection rather than resolution.

At this stage of my life, photography is not about accumulation or ambition. It is an act of noticing, a way of remaining present.

Dianne Woods