

POSSIBLE WORLDS AND PLAUSIBLE BEINGS

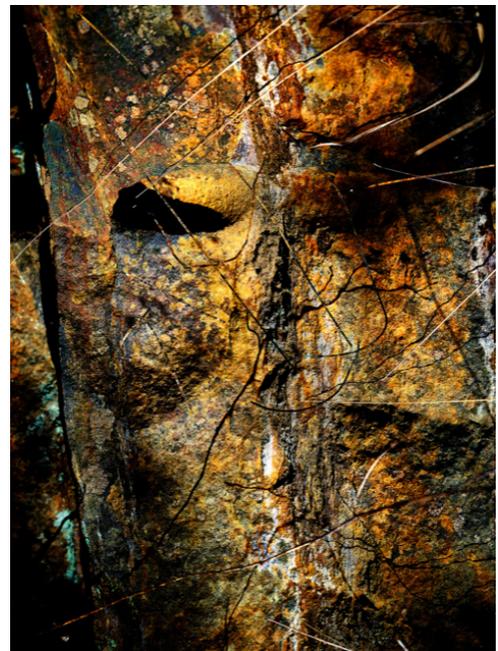
A NEW KIND OF NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

With Fred Buell's new exhibition, nature photography has found a fresh, new face. Rather than seeking lovely scenes and landscapes to gaze at, it interacts with dynamically alive natures that cluster all around us, ones usually hidden in plain sight.

The search for these natures—these possible worlds—starts with the sense that everything is alive, animate, and trying eagerly to communicate with us. Scraps of ice on forest streams show us their etchings of the cosmos (and its beginnings and ends); their images of far stars and galaxies; and their glimpses of mythic creatures sailing through the winter nights above.



Rock formations open dark crevices to speak to us of a much older darkness, a darkness that is so dark it seems to be moving on a still deeper darkness—a darkness from before the time of the formation of stars and even of space itself.



Fred's photographs are interactions with subjects that, discovered, refuse to pose quietly. They insist on being pictured with far more than just a shutter click that "captures" them as they "realistically" or "objectively" are.

They demand to be seen with senses that go beyond what human eyes are capable of. They require the expansion and reconfiguration of vision that today's cameras, together with the clouds of software that trail behind them, can provide.

For these natures insist on a portrayal not just of how they look, but also of their inner lives, their prolific and sometimes profound thoughts, their feelings, and their dreams. Even the loveliest realism is, for these remarkable possible worlds and beings, finally just a prison.

Frederick Buell is a writer and photographer who lived in Warwick 30+ years. As a writer, he has had two books of poetry and three on literary and cultural history published. As a photographer, he has had three one-person shows. His blog can be found at fhibimager.com, and he can be reached at frederick.buell@gmail.com.

POSSIBLE WORLDS AND PLAUSIBLE BEINGS will be at the Albert Wisner Library for the whole month of September.