

Dale M. Reid

Contemporary fine art photographer Dale M. Reid has taken charge of her destiny through a profound commitment to herself and her life partner. This unwavering belief in her potential has enabled Reid to chart a new course as a full-time professional artist. Embracing her transformative journey, Reid has honed her technical skills, questioned conventional norms, and trusted her instincts, ultimately crafting a distinctive artistic voice that invites reflection on identity and perception.

Reid has emerged as a respected figure within the contemporary art community by owning her identity and engaging authentically with others. Initially focused on landscape photography, Reid explored a rich tapestry of maritime, urban, and industrial themes. Today, much of her work unfolds in the studio, where the photographer breathes life into botanical subjects, imbuing them with vivid personality and emotional depth.

Reid's traditional monochromatic images evoke the essence of a painting or graphite, a deliberate choice that invites viewers to immerse themselves in the textures and intricate lines of each piece. Exclusively capturing her images on film, the photographer hand prints them in a darkroom using traditional black-and-white chemistry, ensuring authenticity through the absence of digital manipulation.

The project presented in these pages, *Pursuit of Equality (Women and Societal Rights)*, emerges as a poignant response to the rising tide of authoritarianism that threatens the fabric of society. Reid's work addresses critical social issues, including ethnic bias, sexual

and reproductive health, and misogyny, highlighting how these challenges extend beyond the LGBTQ+ community to affect all sectors of the population. She reflects on this urgency with conviction: "Art has the power to evoke change, and as a woman in this society, it is essential to use my voice for those who may not be heard."

Through her work, Reid crafts narratives that speak to diversity and acceptance. In her series *Diversity - Stronger Together*, the photographer employs mushroom imagery as a metaphor for unique identities, with each mushroom symbolizing resilience and inclusivity. Two images, "Oyster Mushroom 2" and "Oyster Mushroom 37," represent womanhood, emphasizing bodily autonomy and personal choice.

Reid also shines a light on the drag and trans communities, whose historical roots are rich and complex. The image "Draglicious" celebrates the flamboyance and artistry of drag queens, while acknowledging the intricacies of gender identity. For the trans community, Reid presents "S/he - the dahlia flower," a symbol of change and support for those embracing their true selves.

Her work has gained recognition in various exhibitions, including the well-received *Diversity - Stronger Together* at the 20th Julia Margaret Cameron Awards for Women Photographers in April 2024. Looking ahead, an invitation to exhibit at the European Cultural Centre's 2026 Biennial offers an exciting opportunity for Reid to advance her artistic vision and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about identity and representation.

Following page
DIVERSITY - STRONGER TOGETHER,
from the *Pursuit of Equality*, 2023;
Following spread from left to right
top: **OYSTER MUSHROOM 2**, from
the *Pursuit of Equality*, 2012;
bottom: **OYSTER MUSHROOM 37**,
from the *Pursuit of Equality*, 2016;
DRAGLICIOUS 3, from the *Pursuit of Equality*, 2016;
S/he, from the *Pursuit of Equality*, 2014;



