

'Amblings in Light': Terry Nathan's portrayal of order in an apparently chaotic world



Musa Zaid / Aggie

The *Amblings in Light* exhibit features photographs from Craft Center digital photography instructor Terry Nathan. The exhibit will be displayed in the Craft Center until Mar. 16.

By IRENE TROY
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In a world that seems to be plagued by disorder, an artist's ability to create a sense of harmony among

the various elements of the universe is something to be revered.

Terry Nathan, a photography instructor at the UC Davis Craft Center, seems to have mastered this ability to recreate the tranquili-

ty of natural cooperation in his collection of photos titled *Amblings in Light*, currently on display in the Craft Center. The show, located in the South Silo building on campus, began Feb. 16 and will continue

through Mar. 16.

The exhibit expresses conceptualizations of order in nature and architecture. The varying aspects of the world appear to be constantly at odds with one another, and this is most evident between the natural world and the manmade world. Nathan performs the difficult task of capturing moments in time when deviating elements of society and nature appear to be engaged in a moment of synchronization.

Light is the distinct agent that Nathan, as well as most photographers, uses in order to capture these harmonic moments in time. Natural illumination is one visual element that transcends the boundaries that separate aspects of the universe. It holds in itself the capacity to affect everything with which it comes into contact. Light is, therefore, the primary means by which separate factors of nature and architecture can become unified.

One of the photographs that Nathan displays in his show, "The Wreck of the Point Reyes," performs this task of unification by beautifully displaying a scene that resulted from the collision of the manmade world and nature — a shipwreck.

In the media, shipwrecks are generally portrayed as frightening

concepts and reasons for people to fear the natural world. The effect of this photograph, however, is quite different: It evokes a sense of serenity and harmony between the actual boat and its clear reflection in the water below.

Nathan also portrays a series of photographs of the UC Davis Social Sciences and Humanities Building. In passing this building on a daily basis, one would not generally be drawn to notice a striking harmonic quality in its shapes. Nathan, however, takes this seemingly ordinary building and, through the artful use of light, creates a sense of geometric order that transcends our common perceptions.

Existing within both the natural and manmade worlds can often leave an individual with a sense of alienation or a lack of connectedness. Nathan's portrayal of the aesthetic qualities of a harmonic order in the world surrounding is both hopeful and inspiring, leaving the viewer with a sense of natural connection.

Amblings in Light will be on display at the UC Davis Craft Center until Mar. 16. For gallery hours, visit campusrecreation.ucdavis.edu/crafts/gallery.php. For more information on Nathan's work, visit terrinnathanphoto.com.

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