

NEW RELEASE

Torrance York Semaphore

Texts by Rebecca A. Senf, Torrance York
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In a visual journey of poetic images, Torrance York examines how living with Parkinson's disease has changed her view of the world.

Semaphore examines the shift in my perspective after having been diagnosed seven years ago with Parkinson's disease. Through images, I consider what it means to integrate this life-altering information into my sense of self. What does acceptance look like?
– Torrance York

After discovering that she had Parkinson's disease, Torrance York focused her camera on the challenge to understand what the diagnosis would mean for her life and family. Through her journey onward and inward, she found her art impacting her life just as the opposite was obviously true. She describes it thus, "What feels good about these pictures is that the images name the experience somewhat, and that is so satisfying. The photograph moves it out of me and into a form that other people can receive." As Senf explains, "With each photograph York is building a visual terminology for this journey she's on, which allows her to, quite literally, live life on her own terms."

In *Semaphore*, York presents photographs of nature, the human body, medical images, details from daily life, and of light, to speak metaphorically about her experience. Her poetic images bare human vulnerability, while inspiring optimism and connection. Over 10 million people worldwide are living with Parkinson's disease. While this book is relevant to the Parkinson's community, it connects with others whose journeys require growth, patience, and perseverance to move forward.

From the essay by **Rebecca Senf, PhD:**

Semaphore brings together several threads of photographs, images, and words to create an experience that alludes to the disorientation of receiving a Parkinson's disease diagnosis and Torrance

York's subsequent process towards radical acceptance. Forgive my directness, but hopefully you have already viewed York's work, compiled from a collection of images, woven together, building one upon another, culminating in a gentle but profound conclusion. York's work is quiet, luminous, generous, quivering. She has been plunged into an experience some might describe as dark, or narrow, or claustrophobic. But that's not how she characterizes it for us. Being forced to examine and accept her mortality – the literal existential challenge each one of us will face – she comes back to us with tales of profound observation, of questions and considerations, of careful slowness, and always there is light.

Torrance York (b.1966 in New York, NY) lives in Connecticut. York earned a BA in American Studies from Yale and an MFA in photography from Rhode Island School of Design. She has had several solo exhibitions in Connecticut and New York, was a Critical Mass Finalist 2021 and received a Honorable Mention in the Lenscratch Art + Science Awards 2021, among other awards. York serves on the Board of the Educational Video Center in NYC where she formerly taught documentary video. She is an Artist Guild Member of Silvermine Arts Center. Her landscape photography is represented by Littlejohn Contemporary, New York. www.torranceyork.com

Rebecca Senf, PhD, is Chief Curator at the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona, in Tucson.

Exhibition

Rick Wester Fine Art, New York City
08.09.–15.10.2022

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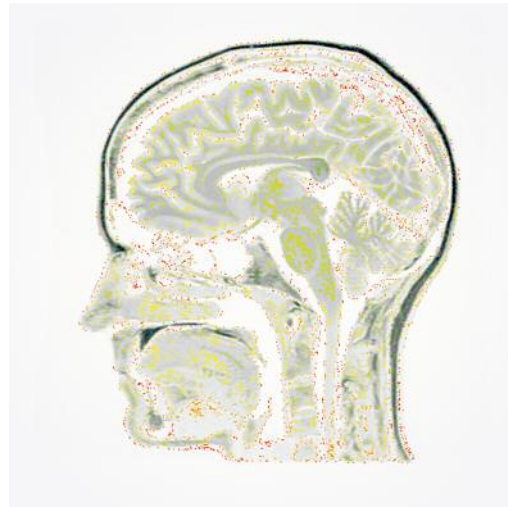
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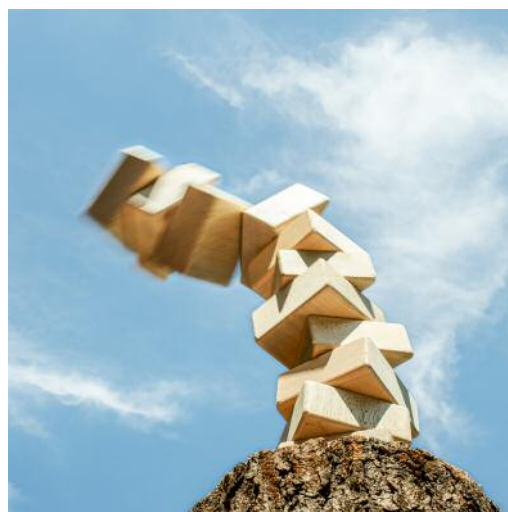
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