

Kirsten Mashinter Biography/Artist Statement

Kirsten Mashinter's photography sheds light on the often overlooked world of xerophytic plants. As the driest state in the nation, Nevada's harsh terrain may seem barren and inhospitable, but Mashinter's lens reveals a delicate beauty in the flora that have adapted to survive in these extreme conditions. Her intimate close-ups capture the ephemeral softness of these low-lying plants, bringing attention to the subtleties of the desert landscape and the resilience of its plant life.

The photographs of xerophytic plants in this exhibition were taken in the Nevada portion of the Great Basin, a region that is nearly 85% federal land and accessible to the public. While much of the state may appear barren and uninhabitable, these photos showcase the softness and delicacy of the desert's prickly ground cover. Through the use of a wide aperture, she captures the ephemeral beauty of the desert landscape, inviting viewers to appreciate the small wonders that can be found in even the harshest environments.

Kirsten Mashinter's photographic work captures the beauty of small, often unnoticed details. Her images possess a contemplative quality that allows the viewer to pause and appreciate the subtle moments she portrays, such as how light illuminates a bloom of wild blue flax or how snow has gently fallen on the laundry line in her backyard. A former teaching mentor and specialist who has lived and worked in various countries, including Japan, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Georgia, and Tajikistan, Kirsten's ability to notice and appreciate the details of her surroundings has been honed over time. As she transitions from teaching to art and photography, she continues to showcase her unique perspective through analog and digital mediums, creating striking images inviting reflection and introspection. Kirsten currently resides in Reno, Nevada.

Quote

"I am infinitely inspired by the basin and range topography that allows me to be as big as the night sky, as small as a wisp of alkaline dust, and everything in between." -

Kirsten Mashinter