

POET AND THE BENCH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NICO VAN DONGEN

Concerning Trees

November 19, 2020 - January 31, 2021

Poet and/the Bench

11 Throckmorton Avenue, Mill Valley

Gallery Hours:

Sunday - Thursday, 10:30 am-5:00 pm;

Friday - Saturday, 10:30 am-7:00 pm

For press and all other inquiries, please contact

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Image: Fork Tree, by Nico van Dongen

Poet and/the Bench is delighted to announce a new exhibition by San Francisco based fine art photographer and educator Nico van Dongen. Titled “Concerning Trees”, the exhibit features five arresting images that evoke a fantasy world within the realism of the natural surroundings.

This new effort by the artist highlights his technical experiments with both lens and post production echos—a result of the sometimes dozen exposures he has layered as one image. These photographs transport you and ask you to observe with awareness and heightened consciousness. And in this state, with your own memories and longing, van Dongen aims for these images to give you a more personal connection with trees.

The journey of the “Concerning Trees” project started in 2015. Botanical studio photography taught van Dongen to closely observe and capture what grows in our natural world. The transition from

blossom to tree was enormous: Capturing that inner feeling of release as well as raised awareness when you are amongst trees allowed him to translate a tree's mass and lightness simultaneously.

Taken over six weeks during COVID Shelter-in-Place in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, these time-based photographs allow you to stand in the light as the artist perceives it; surreal and in motion. The visual impression of the final multi layered image allows the mind to float between space and time for one moment.

Trees are the largest living organic form close to van Dongen's home and the park has been his backyard for more than 20 years. Punctuating the timeframe of these images, 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the 1,017 acre Golden Gate Park, one of San Francisco's most treasured and historic recreational, cultural and environmental resources.

[Link to purchase.](#)

Read an [interview with the artist](#) about the exhibition.

View a [video walk through](#) by the artist:



Nico van Dongen was born in the Netherlands and received a Master's of Fine Art in Photography at the Royal Academy of Art (KABK), The Hague. He lives and works in San Francisco.