

A YEAR OF CHANGE

The *subtle changes* in the historic garden landscape at EVERGLADES in Leura, New South Wales, as it transitions *through the seasons* have been captured through the lens of photographer TRACY PONICH.

writer JENNIFER STACKHOUSE



Tracy Ponich treads lightly on the landscape, acutely aware of her carbon footprint. She assesses every project for its environmental costs (paper, ink, fuel, power costs, for example), which are offset with carbon credits. She also donates funds to tree planting for habitat and carbon sequestering. So far she has sponsored the planting of 369 trees.

“I studied the history of art and architecture in Canada — always camera in hand — but it was in 2009 that I was pushed into photography,” she explains. Just two years later she had her first exhibition. Ponich’s particular love is for black-and-white images.

“I like to be responsible for every decision made about a photograph from what is taken to how it is printed,” she says.

The fine art photographer now lives at Katoomba, New South Wales, and finds inspiration in her local mountain area. Her love of gardens, history and the Blue Mountains came together in

a project that saw her visiting the National Trust property Everglades for over a year to capture the garden in every season.

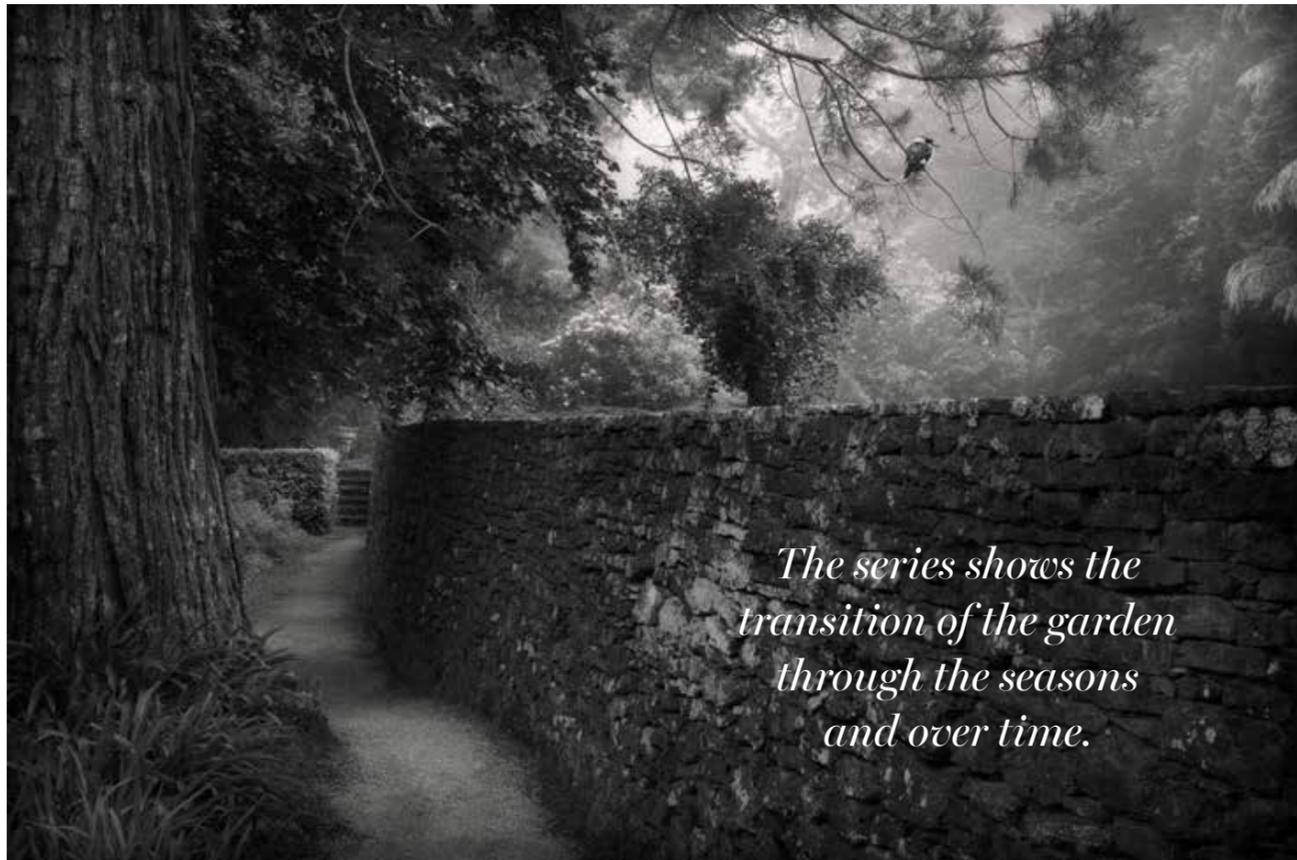
She took the first photographs in June 2016 then tracked the cool climate garden until May 2017. The series shows the transition of the garden through the seasons and over time. While some photographs are in colour, it is black-and-white and tonal compositions that dominate.

“The Everglades garden is very much about structure and in a black-and-white image you get pulled into the shot and look at what’s shown a little bit differently: the colour doesn’t get in the way of appreciating the form of the landscape.”

Transitions is at the gallery at Everglades Historic House & Gardens, 37 Everglades Avenue, Leura, NSW; open 11am–3pm, Wednesday–Sunday, May 5th–27th, 2018; (02) 4784 1938. The book Transitions, \$48, is also available; feathermark.com.au.



THIS PAGE: ‘House from the Conifer Walk, Autumn’, May 2017. The house is glimpsed through copper beeches that are illuminated by autumn sun.
OPPOSITE PAGE: ‘Vegetable Patch, Misty Spring Sunday’, November 2016. The garden was captured early on a spring morning, before it opened to the public, as mist shrouded the lower garden.



THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: 'Summer Shade, Agapanthus Terrace', shot on the summer solstice in December 2016 and one of several shots of this path through the seasons; 'Kookaburra in Mist, Conifer Walk', November 2016. On this misty spring morning before the garden opened Tracy Ponich says she was sharing Everglades with the birds. "I watched this kookaburra come and go, over and over again, and waited. Finally he was just right and perfect for the shot." **OPPOSITE PAGE:** 'Carer of the Trees, Guy McIlrath', April 2017. Now Manager of Everglades, Guy McIlrath was then Head Gardener. Despite the chilly afternoon he says that warmth radiated from the giant sequoia at his back.

