

Foreword

I have known Jed since he was a young and enthusiastic footballer on the village pitch at Worth Matravers, playing with my own children. Raised in such a special location has had its effect on both him and the people who know his photographs.

To talk of place is one thing, to know the very important nature of a place – its intrinsic particularity - is quite another. Jed has been searching and seeking this special quality that resides in the very rock foundations, those who have ‘worked’ this masonry for centuries and the remarkable evidence left by those who lived and died in the locality. This range is enormous from the footsteps of the dinosaurs to the Roman agricultural remains of wine harvesting – even to the defence systems left behind from the last world war. The people of Worth Matravers, those who have come down through centuries of being part of the place, wear their inheritance in their faces. Jed Corbett knows, sees and records these special people who are integral with this particular and rare place.

A photographer ‘freezes’ time to the best of his ability, capturing an instance in the inevitable flow of the time that wears away, in which we are all part. Yet he knows better; instinctively each picture that ‘works’ has caught this mystery of timelessness – what the ancients called eternity. A good photograph is like an ‘upanishad’ as the Vedic (Hindu) scholars would say. They *approach* the timeless by stilling a moment with the camera shutter. What is captured is always a mystery in as much as some pictures really do intimate the timeless and thereby inspire.

In my own volume called *Time Stands Still* I have studied the ancient megalithic stone circle builders and fabricators of the very earliest stone Platonic figures. These were made maybe as far back as 3000 B.C. well before they were first described by Plato. Like the beautifully quarried stone of Worth they speak of timelessness both in idea and body. In a similar way that each portrait by Jed Corbett speaks of the very first people as much as each particular person today.

Jed’s art points to that which really matters, the timeless presence that is inherent in all things if only we have the time or sensibility to ‘see’ it.

I do hope many people get to see and read the contents of this book as it is intrinsic to the inheritance of our land and us.

Keith Critchlow