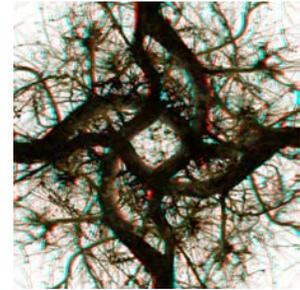


# Photographing the Emergent Self

*Connecting with Mundus Imaginalis, Layers of Liminality, and Transcendence*

The past year of 2014 has been a period of intense work both psychologically and in my artwork, as photographs led me to a vastly deeper connection with the Self, and that connection in turn helped me create deeper photographs. In this proposed paper, I will show four series of photographs from the past year, *Visions*, *Self-ies*, *Satori*, and *Presence*, which center around themes of parts and whole, layers and liminality, the self and the Self. I will also discuss how these photographs relate to the inner work that I was doing, culminating in life-changing experiences of satori or enlightenment.

First I will show the *Visions* series of 3-D photographs, in which I try to evoke the mystery, awe, and child-like wonder that we can experience in dreams, visions, and other states of consciousness. 3-D glasses will be provided to audience members for what is intended to be a very experiential presentation. Created as extended meditations throughout the multiple exposure process, this series of complex mandalas brings together many pairs of opposites, such as parts and whole, object and symbol, chaotic and ordered, mundane and transcendent. The *Visions* series also connects with Lesley Dill's paper on visions at the last Art & Psyche conference, which has helped me to talk openly about visions and other mystical experiences.



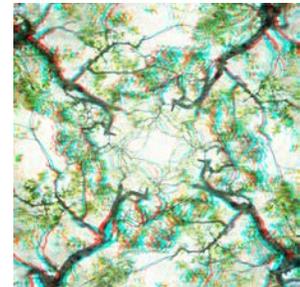
*Vision #33, 2014*



*Self-ies, 2015*

I will also show self portraits from the *Self-ies* series, which were part of my inner work and my effort to become more conscious of my body. In these photographs, I explore themes of light and shadow, the subtle body, self identity, and transcendence, and the photographs also served to document the unfamiliar *mudras* and *kriyas* as kundalini energy flowed through me, burning through any remaining obstacles.

Next, I will share the *Satori* series of 3-D photographs, which I created to try to visually describe my experience of satori or enlightenment. While some traditions including Tibetan Buddhism discourage directly discussing one's own experiences of these types of consciousness, I believe it's important to 'come out' and share our experiences as others have done before, like Jung, Hildegard von Bingen, and others.



*Satori #1, 2014*



*Presence #10, 2014*

I will conclude by showing the *Presence* series, which represents a return to the world transformed by the experience of non-duality. These photographs were created by moving my shadow against the ground until they merged together and I could literally feel the ground as part of my body. In that state of non-duality, all boundaries disappear, you are one with everything, and everything becomes exquisitely beautiful, even old dry weeds, fallen leaves, and cracks in the driveway. When we are fully present in the here and now, free of all thoughts and boundaries, we truly are liberated, and we can finally just Be.

### Artist's Biography

Ryan Bush is a fine-art photographer based in Los Gatos, California. He uses techniques such as multiple exposures and 3-D photography to explore themes of consciousness, the visionary experience, our connection with nature, and the mysteries hidden in everyday things. Bush earned a BA in Linguistics and Russian from Swarthmore College in 1995, and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from UC Santa Cruz in 2000. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and is in several collections including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Stanford Medical Center, and the C. G. Jung Institute of San Francisco.

To see more images from the *Visions*, *Satori*, and *Presence* series, along with artist statements about the work, please see [www.RyanBushPhotography.com](http://www.RyanBushPhotography.com). Note that the images from the *Visions* and *Satori* series can be seen on my website in 3-D, using red/cyan 3-D glasses. Selected images from the *Self-ies* series can be found at [ryanbushphotography.tumblr.com](http://ryanbushphotography.tumblr.com).

RYAN BUSH, Ph.D.

