

David Batchelder **Tideland**

Text by David Company



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After five years of looking closely through his camera at a small beach, David Batchelder no longer sees the shores as we know them. His vision now is of a private reality within the tideland. In *Tideland*, Batchelder invites you to join him in his visual journey into a tideland like none that has yet been photographed.

Batchelder uses the camera, not to picture more clearly that which we already know, but to discover and capture the unsung beauty of our land. He shares with us an inexplicable, ambiguous, imaginative and odd world of magical visions – landscapes, spaces, creatures and curious objects, disfigured and eroded by the ocean. Although Batchelder uses digital processes, his approach to creative camera work has its origin very much in the era of film, using a digital camera and Photoshop as one would have used a film camera and a darkroom.

David Company's essay introduces Batchelder's tideland world where the viewer's imagination and memory take over and, you too, leave the beach as you now know it.

In the 1960s, **David Batchelder** received an MA and MFA in photography from the University of Iowa studying under John Schulze. He taught photography at Smith College, Amherst College, Boston University, Dartmouth State College, and Plymouth State College. His early photographs were exhibited widely, published in *Aperture* magazine, and can be admired in the following collections: Addison Gallery of American Art, Fogg Museum, George Eastman House, Michigan Institute of Technology, Smith College, Bowdoin College, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Hood Museum, and Dartmouth College. Batchelder did not start making creative photographs until 1984. Ninety photographs from *Tideland* were exhibited at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park, Charleston, South Carolina in 2014.

David Company is a writer, curator and artist, working mainly with photography. He has written many books and curated many shows. David has a PhD and teaches at the University of Westminster, London. For his writing, David has received the ICP Infinity Award, the Kraszna-Krausz Book Award, a Deutscher Fotobuchpreis, and the Royal Photographic Society's award for writing.

