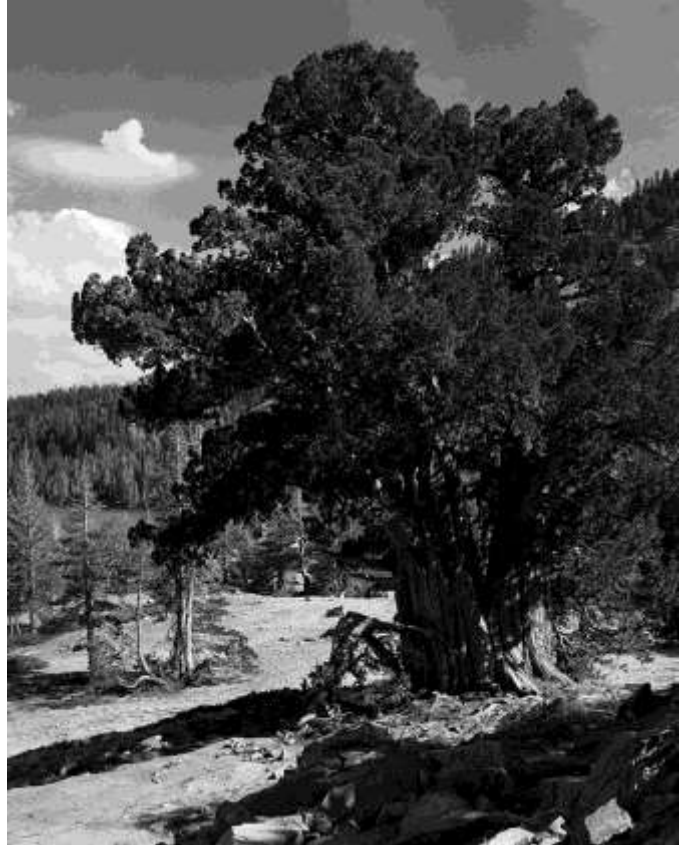


Juniper Twins

The Sierra Juniper is the largest of the Junipers found in the mountains and can live to more than 3,000 years. In this year of smoke in California from major wildfires and the Covid-19 pandemic, a client commissioned me to do a photo study of a pair of ancient Junipers near his cabin at Echo Lakes.

Camping next to the trees, over a few days' time, I was able to watch the shadows play across the bark, branches and surrounding rocks. Watching for the right lighting conditions, I used a 4"x 5" large format camera to shoot scenes in high detail and create this essay of four prints.



The print process I use dates back to 1873 and is called Platinum Printing. The process involves hand coating watercolor paper with platinum/palladium emulsion. This emulsion is only sensitive to ultraviolet or sunlight. I scan my film negatives creating high resolution digital negatives at enlarged sizes from 8"x10" to 24"x 36". I then contact print the digital negatives on the hand-coated paper using a special ultraviolet light box. This process, while expensive and time consuming, yields more detail in the shadows and highlights than more modern methods. The developer I commonly use produces brown tones instead of true blacks and greys, lending the images a warmer, old time feel.

The majority of my work is centered on natural and historic subjects photographed with the large format camera in black & white. I strive to present the subject matter with as much fine detail as I can. Texture, can suggest a tactile aspect that draws the eye to explore the subject more deeply.

Les Allert