

PHOTOGRAPHY & IMAGING

1997 - present

Starting in 1997, Geoffrey seriously began his artistic exploration. After playing with photography at Carnegie Mellon University from 1993-1997, Fontaine moved to Geneseo, NY and became an apprentice to then SUNY Geneseo's university photographer, Ron Pretzer. Pretzer's role at the university included a great deal of landscape, architectural, and portrait work. Pretzer provided Geoffrey with a solid foundation in the zone system, lighting, composition, development, and printing. With access to a private dark-room, Geoffrey commonly found himself printing through the night; discovering passion in the process and joy in seeing the images develop on the paper.

Fontaine's primary focus during this time was on black and white photography, and his particular gift seemed to be in printing. As he matured, Pretzer began allowing the young student (then 22) to print the master's work. Some photographic assignments followed in the years after Fontaine left Geneseo, but little of substance.

In 2003 however, after joining the stable of artists at Haven Art, Fontaine was able to put his dormant talents to use photographing both his own and other artist's work. Haven Art is a community that houses sculptors, functional ceramicists, painters, illustrators, and glass workers (blowing, stained glass, and lamp work). Fontaine was able to study ceramics and glassblowing during this period, as well as refresh his drawing skills, all while focusing on teaching and painting.

His subtle recognition of texture and ability to expose nuances through lighting and composition are visible in the images. This chapter illuminates Fontaine's skill in capturing functional and aesthetic aspects of art and also displays his comfort with the digital medium.

Fontaine has worked in 3-D space to create renderings for some of his larger commercial projects. As his work evolves, the ability to communicate ideas through renderings and concept sketches become more vital to his growth and success.

Right: *Study in Black and White*, 1997
8 x 10 inches, Silver Gelatin Print on Paper
Hand-printed by the Artist
Schonbrun Family Collection, Port Washington, New York





Portrait of Jennifer Mansfield, 1997
35mm Black and White Negative
Hand printed by the Artist
Artist's Personal Collection



The Looking Glass, 1997
5x7 inches, Silver Gelatin Print on Paper
Hand printed by the Artist
Schonbrun Family Collection, Port Washington, New York