

José Miguel Ferreira - Portugal/Switzerland

Franca Terra : one year in France

A career in music might certainly have pleased him, but he gravitated towards the IT industry and worked as an independent consultant for 6 years. He had dabbled in photography as a hobby and improved his craft when he built his first darkroom in 1991. Constantly searching for the highest photographic quality, he equipped himself with several medium format cameras, and began working with high definition photography

after purchasing a large format camera in 2000. Two years later, his life took a drastic turn and his career in photography commenced when he decided to dedicate himself entirely to photography by going on the road and re-discovering France with his view camera.

This voyage, rich in emotions and discovery, gave birth to his most important photographic project, 'Franca Terra' which

gives a fresh view of the French landscape, and displays the delicate balance between Nature and Man. With his large format film camera and traditional darkroom work he became rigorous, precise and extremely methodical, a man passionate about his art. Striving beyond technique, he frees himself to be guided by his emotions and aesthetic direction. His realization that art is not necessarily synonymous with rationality is defined by his absorption of the world's energies surrounding him.



While the Musical masterpieces of his favourite composers surround him, he isolates himself in his work, always attempting to give his best, focusing maximum energy on the project at hand. This mind-set is indispensable when working with Platinotype printing, because the technique, the freedom and control of this medium gives the photographer endless possibilities to craft the image. In addition, this technique allows the opportunity to combine both the power and precision of modern technologies with the charm and passion contained in the oldest photographic processes. While being aware of the many new technologies, Ferreira appreciates - above all - the hands-on process which includes direct contact with traditional materials and the scent of chemical products.

The Franca Terra series was printed on silver gelatin. His new series, The Port Wine Route is being printed on palladium and exhibited in Portugal. Jose is looking for agent/galleries in other countries. Contact him by email jmf@jmferreira.net To view more of his work visit www.jmferreira.net



Top Left: La Méditerranée, Languedoc-Roussillon
Bottom Left: Rochers de Ploumanach, Bretagne
Top Right: Bonzai naturel, Corse
Bottom Right: Cap Corse, Corse

