

day out

Amazing photos by weather obsessed artist

Interview by Ronita Dutta

Artist Tracey Moberly is obsessed with weather. So much so that it has started to dominate her practice. Here in her own words she tells The Weather Channel UK about her fixation and the lengths she'll go to capture the elements.



1 OF 82

Flood fields by Tracey Moberly



Click through the slide show above to see some of Moberly's incredible weather photographs.

"Weather impacts on my work a great deal and guides a certain section of my practice - specifically within my journalist/media professional photography work. I hate using a flash and love natural lighting and the colours that stream in from natural light. This can be from a heavy grey day to a vibrant snowflake white light day. I don't have a preference for any natural light weather day when I'm relying on the weather and light to photograph a subject. However I do like the magical hour - a couple of hours before the sun sets, it is low and catapults a beautiful radiant hue across landscapes or peoples bodies and faces.

I don't like doing shoots of subjects on grey dark days but I do love photographing natural scenes in this type of weather. I have to follow the weather quite religiously when embarking on photography projects so I'm very aware of it."

Sun

"I have always been totally entranced by the setting sun. I think the reason is that within seconds the whole shape and colour of the sky can change and you can never recapture that same image - not ever. So I chase the sunsets, trying to capture the small changes as they occur, never knowing which is the best shot that resides in my phone camera, SLR or film camera as each one seems to be an adrenalin hit when I take it, and I think each one is better than the subsequent one - which is rarely the case. If I'm in a car I will race across straight planes following the horizon and the lowering sun to see what randomly appears in it's way to be hit by the light which can change the viewing perception with the differing light."

Rain

"Ever since being a child the discordian images that appear within seconds from a downpour of heavy rain has hypnotised me. When trying to recapture that 'generic' image through a lense the different landscapes and portraits it paints are always so very different, yet they are all built up from a pattern of falling rain drops into puddles. I think my favourite ever film scene which I saw when I was very young was of the animated autumn rain drops sequence in the Disney film Bambi. I like the always changing movement in a vigorous downpour of rain. Also I always wish I lived much higher up from ground level to catch the lightening skies that come with some torrential downpours."

Clouds and rainbows

"When I'm photographing the elements I always look for colour, lighting, movement and form. I never know how long a rainbow will last or why two or more rainbows appear - theoretically I do - but I still find it as special and magical as I did when I was a child. Trying to capture what falls within a rainbow's wake interests me. I love how quickly a cloud can change it's formation too, one minute the scramble of data that makes up a cloud looks like a fluff ball the next it takes on the shape of a face or physical form. I love saggy, baggy, heavy clouds that look like they are going to burst spilling from the inside out and the juxtaposition of those clouds on other subjects such as mountain ranges, rivers or horizontal ranges."

Mumbles mornings

"Waking up on edge of the sea with the rising light of varying colours trying to squeeze through the blinds first inspired me to create the Mumbles Mornings photo series. Ordinarily nothing would have got me up at dawn before this. I soon became aware that each day would start off as a different colour. This was soon followed by the alterations over the ever changing tidal landscape which further inspired me when viewed from the exact same spot.

This part of the Gower coast line is a channel and at the bottom of the channel from the point where I was taking the photographs is Port Talbot Steelworks which operates through day and night totally oblivious of sunset or sunrise. The smoke emissions from the steelworks however add a different dimension to the cloud which makes up the canvas of the sky -this never seemed time related to the industry.

A couple of years after starting the Mumbles Mornings photographs I found out that this was the view that The poet Dylan Thomas looked across from a bedroom window in his house and from where he created much of his well known early work -this inspired me further."

Instagram

Moberly has also been quick to embrace new technology and social media within her work, often shunning her old school SLR camera for a quick snap on her smartphone.

"I love the immediacy of everything when photographing with a mobile phone. It suits subjects that seem to call for that immediate take action shot. I like how you can take the shot of what you can see there and then, maybe Instagram it with one of the app's filters to bring out a section of colour or area of light that is prominent to you - then post it onto a website or social network site within minutes. I love the immediacy of sharing what falls before your eyes and how one processes that without becoming precious over it."

Moberly's next project will also be the biggest weather endurance test of her career as she embarks on a polar expedition - [The Ice Warrior Quest to Reach the Northern Pole of Inaccessibility](#).

To find out more about Tracey Moberly and her work visit www.sanderswood.com and follow her on twitter [@TraceyTM](#)

