



# Planet Earth Series: Treescapes

March 14 - April 26, 2013

Photographs by Amanda Arcuri

**Treescapes** is the first visual art installment in the **Planet Earth Series**, a civic tribute to champion international awareness of Earth Hour (Saturday, March 23, 2013) and Earth Day (April 22, 2013) – both dedicated to global ecological conservation and environmental sustainability. This exhibition explores man's relationship with nature by interpreting tree populated landscapes as primeval forested sanctuaries that also exist as fragile commodities in a world now focused on renewable resources.

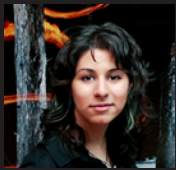
Through the inspired lens of award winning Vaughan photographer Amanda Arcuri, the viewer is invited into a realm of mystical landscapes. Enchanted trees inhabit theatrical compositions. In landscapes manipulated to feature trees as the main protagonists, magical scenes pay homage to trees' physical roots in nature and their spiritual role as iconic symbols. These **treescapes** read as allegories rich in symbolism and moral lesson where the natural world becomes juxtaposed with one that is man-made. Here, basic stage props are employed with simple ingenuity to illustrate mankind's interaction with nature in an environmentally threatened society.

In her own words, Amanda's work "reflects on the question of how we as humans connect with the natural world in today's unnatural society." In her tree-centric landscapes, she often questions whether society perceives nature as a "disposable commodity"; so, deciphering the meaning behind her photographs is somewhat subjective. "The work can be read as having environmental undertones while also possessing philosophical interpretations."

By incorporating the transitory elements of fire, ice and light, Amanda transforms her landscapes into vivid theatrical productions. "I turn the natural world into a backdrop to create a complementary dichotomy with the objects and elements I place within it. The final images leave the viewer questioning how it has been made or exactly what they are looking at. It is the images' ambiguity that transforms the mundane into something otherworldly or mysterious."

Many ravine and wooded locations featured in Amanda's photographic shoots are found near her Maple home. The experimental nature of her work involves numerous takes to produce a final image. "I believe that the fusion of the small pockets of natural world and spaces – at times very close together – gives me inspiration for what I do."

Amanda's treescapes offer us picturesque glimpses of nature that are both familiar and surreal. These enigmatic vistas could possibly lead from our own backyards. Importantly, we are reminded that our environment is precious and can be fleeting; and that as conscientious stewards of our natural resources, we all share a role in ecological conservation.



**Amanda Arcuri** has exhibited work at the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, the Ryerson Gallery, Gallery 1313 and the Gladstone Hotel. A recent graduate from Ryerson University with a BFA in Photography and hopes to pursue a Master in Fine Art soon, she currently enjoys teaching art and photography classes to children where she can inspire and encourage artistic play and exploration while doing so in her own work.

**Silent Auction** A strong advocate of environmental sustainability, the photographer is offering **Water Bags** to the highest bidder. Half the proceeds will be donated to Earth Rangers, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating children "on the importance of protecting biodiversity and adopting more sustainable behaviors". To place a bid, **email your contact information and bid amount to: [artsandculture@vaughan.ca](mailto:artsandculture@vaughan.ca).**



Keep track of latest bids at [facebook.com/RecAndCultureVaughan](https://facebook.com/RecAndCultureVaughan).

For more information on this project and other visual arts initiatives, please contact [artsandculture@vaughan.ca](mailto:artsandculture@vaughan.ca)  
Images: Amanda Arcuri: Light Bulbs; Catchers; Coat Hangers; Paper; Tea Lights; Logs; Presence in Absence 05; Blue Lines; Water Bags

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