

Gallery Guide

Photographer of the Year

Kacey Culbreth

Photographer Kacey Culbreth has created a series of photographs, *The Waters of Yellowstone National Park*, based on her recent trip there. Her photographs encompass both the landscape of the Park and its details, and emphasize the beauty of the natural environment there. Yellowstone itself has a wide range of magnificent and wondrous sites, from geysers and hot pools to forests, vistas and clear lakes. Culbreth has managed to capture the various sites with her individualized vision through not only her choice of subjects, but her *eye*. She crops into details, or selects landscapes that inspire her vision of natural power and beauty.

Her work, **The Grand Canyon of Yellowstone**, commands with its expression of the power of natural forces that carve rock formations; she then moves closer in with **Roaring Rapids**, which expresses the power of water. Nature for her is not just a subject of beauty but of real awe at its variety and atmosphere. One of the most scenic areas of Yellowstone is its geo-thermal Grand Prismatic Spring. Culbreth dedicates two photographs to this subject, emphasizing the intensely saturated color and unusual shapes within the spring. The viewer can sense her fascination with the unusual forms here, and can imagine her taking many photographs from which to choose.

The series of works highlight Culbreth's interest in the various visions of water, whether running or still, splashing or pounding. Water can offer a photographer all kinds of properties, because it is transparent, ever transitory, changing and fluid. Her photograph of Yellowstone Lake reflects the peacefulness of a large still body of water, while her **Waves** expresses the playful quality of water as it murmurs with its gentle waves. In her series, she creates an obviously delightful response to what she sees in this stirring landscape and shares her vision with us.