

August 29-September 3

Dry Plate Photography

With Denise Ross

The class: Learn everything you need to know to get started photographing with handcrafted silver gelatin negatives, both glass plate and film-based.



The old emulsions have a look and feel all their own and can be extraordinarily beautiful. When combined with artisan paper, either silver gelatin or another traditional print process, dry plate photography is a way to make your work as independent as possible from the whims of commercial manufacturers. You can commit to complete mastery of your vision without fear of disappearing materials.

Expect to learn: You will learn to make two basic emulsions, plus the vocabulary and techniques to craft custom emulsions. In addition, you will learn about glass snapping and finishing, subbed film, cameras and plate holders, and exposure and processing. This is a very hands-on class, pulling many skills together.

What you need to bring with you: Students should bring old clothes and shoes, and comfortable eye protection. If you have a LF camera, please bring it and any holders, plate and/or film. Old wooden film holders can be converted to plate holders and we will do that in class. If you are unable to bring a camera, a number of cameras and holders in a variety of LF formats will be available for student use.

Tuition: \$725.00

Biography Denise Ross has had one foot in science and one foot in art since her first step. By college, those interests came together with plans to become a scientific illustrator. Along that path, Denise was introduced to the darkroom and plans changed, but life has always been about the boundary between art and science. Denise has a Master's degree in Botany and was a wetland restoration researcher for a number of years. Fifteen years ago, she sold her seed germination business and turned full time to photography. In 2008, Denise began publishing *The Light Farm* (www.thelightfarm.com), a web journal devoted to the rescue and restoration of handcrafted silver gelatin emulsion photography. For her, this effort of preserving and passing on historical knowledge before it is lost has taken on unforeseen personal importance. She is dedicated to helping people find and develop their own artistic vision within silver gelatin – the latest ‘alternative processes. True preservation will entail bringing the past into the present and future and making it alive and personal. Denise’s photography has been published in *View Camera*, *Photo Techniques* (collector prints series), *Magnachrom* and the special ‘Glass Plate Photography’ issue of *Creative Image Maker* magazine. Her photography can be seen both on *The Light Farm* website and at www.dwrphotos.com. Denise can be contacted at editor@thelightfarm.com. Questions about silver gelatin emulsion making are always welcome. See her work at <http://dwrphotos.com/>

