

Susan Saunders

Photographer

SusanSaundersPhotography.com
on Instagram at [#smsaundersphotographer](https://www.instagram.com/smsaundersphotographer)



Attitude © Susan Saunders



Susan Saunders grew up in south Texas, on a ranch near the Mexican border. Her passion for photography was kindled when her aunt gave her a Kodak Brownie camera when she was twelve. Her constant companion, Susan used it to interpret her experiences growing up in this stark environment. Ranch life left her with an affinity for wide-open spaces, and animal life of all kinds.

Attending Barnard College in Manhattan was a substantial visual and emotional adjustment. It was while she was at Barnard that she began to photograph city street life, during a particularly exciting time in the city's history, the late 60s and early 70s. Captivated by the gritty New York street scenes her early work documents both the magic and the mayhem of the rough and tumble everyday life of New York, and her inhabitants. The lonely vulnerability of the individual balances precariously against a backdrop of burning ghettos and invulnerable skyscrapers.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in English, Susan worked in publishing, soon becoming a freelance writer of children's books. She continued to photograph, largely in black and white, not only because it was more affordable to process, but also because she was drawn to the images of artists like Ansel Adams, Miguel Alvarez Bravo, and Minor White. Galleries in the city were a continuing inspiration.

Today, Susan's work reflects a life shared between the more rural Northfork of Long Island, especially in the off-season, and the rugged Fundy coast of Nova Scotia. Both places are a paradise for photography when a quiet solitude replaces the bustling distractions of tourism.

As a storyteller, Susan is also drawn to the portraiture of people and animals. Her photomontages encourage the viewer to provide their own narrative.



For the past year, Susan has been working with a mirrorless camera, converted to access the infrared spectrum of light, yielding images that are reminiscent of magic realism, and then some. That is the work that we are celebrating in *The Fat Canary Journal*. In some the colors and composition yield a hyper-tranquility.

White horses and sunflowers appear as mythological visitors, whispering their own tales of place and time. The ultramarine hay bales huddled under an orange sky in *Top of North Mountain* and the field of green transected in *Portal* reflect masterful compositional skills. Other images *Broccoli at Sunset*, *Inlet at Dusk*, and *Pollards* yield landscapes reimagined, or even alien universes conjured up by this talented photographer.

Recent Shows and Galleries

June 2018	Landscapes, two-woman show, gallery, Westhampton Beach Library
December 2017	Small Works, William Ris Gallery, Jamesport NY
December 2017	Artful Holiday Show, pop-up gallery, 155 W. 29th St., NYC
December 2017	Small Works, Ille Arts, Easthampton NY
September 2017	Kindred, two-woman show, William Ris Gallery, Jamesport NY
March 2017	Juried show, Color of Light, Photoplace Gallery, Middlebury VT
January 2016	Juried show, Pinhole to Plastic, Photoplace Gallery, Middlebury VT
October 2016- present	William Ris Gallery, Jamesport NY
May 2015- present	Love Lane Gallery, Mattituck NY

Street photographs from the 1970s and '80s have been included in several recent NY Times articles about the period, as well as various internet collections like *Vintage Everyday*.

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Sunflowers Under a Stormy Sky © Susan Saunders

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Top of North Mountain © Susan Saunders

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Morning Fog © Susan Saunders

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Fishermen © Susan Saunders

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Portal © Susan Saunders

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Broccoli at Sunset © Susan Saunders

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Inlet at Dusk © Susan Saunders

FAT CANARY JOURNAL

February 2018



Pollards © Susan Saunders