

Sunday, October 25. 2009

2009.06.26: [Getting lost during an] engagement shoot in the woods

The 2009 wedding shooting year wrapped up for Dong and I at the end of September. I'm still working through some colour and silver halide black and white film from the last few weddings and I came across some photos from Vivian's and Aaron's engagement shoot in the mossy forest introduced to me by Cody Tait and Mike Isaak. I started shooting with the Zeiss Ikon at first and then backtracked to pick up my Sinar X and subsequently got lost. Not just a little lost . . . so lost that I had to follow the noise to the high way and then find my way back in, eating up about half an hour of daylight. It was an interesting experience and we got our shots but I'm definitely not wearing sandals into a forest again.

I eventually found the couple and they were about to leave for a washroom break but they had written me a note: "We are going to the washroom and we have your camera."

This shot gives you a sense of the atmosphere in which the engagement photos were shot. The moss is several inches deep, there's very little direct sunlight entering the forest even when it isn't overcast, and the background consists of muted colours but with high contrast between sky, tree trunks, and moss. Shot on the Zeiss Ikon with the 35/2 Biogon ZM on Fuji Provia 100F push processed to ISO 400 by ABC Photocolour in Vancouver.

This 100% crop of the previous frame performed with the Nikon Coolscan 5000 gives you an idea of the grain structure. It's very well-managed and I find it aesthetically pleasing. I intend to try pushing this film to ISO 800 the next time I shoot it and I will try this with 4x5 sheets as well.

One of the frames shot on a sheet of Ilford HP5+ pushed to ISO 3200 in HC-110 dilution B. For weeks I have been trying to find film and developer combinations to produce film grain that I could resolve using the Microtek M1 scanner and this was the first frame in which I managed to do so. Now the majority of my large format black and white sheet film is push processed.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 02:10