True Nature

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Kevin Ballantine (Edith Cowan University)

Digital cameras render photos of the world that are crisp and TV screen glass-like. So unlike the dusty places and lives we live in.
I don’t use digital cameras very often. I prefer film.
But I don’t shoot film any more.
Though digital cameras are just right for the sharp, clear, precise light of City Beach.
City Beach, a ten minute drive from home.
Its spare, Zen beauty is compelling;
Minds empty and fill with vast cerulean blue.

Sogyl Rinpoche writes that minds are like oceans.
That the waves that arise and are taken back into the depths,
surface just like the restless and persistent thoughts of our minds.
The ocean’s true nature is when it is calm.
Our true nature is when our minds are not ensnared by thoughts.
The space between the waves, the spaces between thoughts, is where our true nature is vested.
Meditation extends the spaces between thoughts, writes Sogyl Rinpoche.

A giant seal surfaces.
He / she the bearer of a nonchalant gaze.
The seal has not read Sogyal Rinpoche’s The Tibetan Book Of Living and Dying!
“But isn’t the discursive practice of writing books the product of thinking thoughts?”
asks the seal.
“How long can you hold your breath for?” asks the seal.
Figure 1. True Nature I. Kevin Ballantine (2015)
Figure 2. True Nature II. Kevin Ballantine (2015)
Figure 3. True Nature III. Kevin Ballantine (2015)
Figure 4. True Nature IV. Kevin Ballantine (2015)

Kevin Ballantine is a photographer and Lecturer in the School of Arts and Humanities at Edith Cowan University. To see more of his work, visit: http://www.arnoblax.com/