



***Enchanted Realities: The Photography of Merry Moor Winnett*** explores the work of an experimental, romantic artist who came of age in the 1970s and advocated new media. Merry (1951-1994), a graduate of the University of South Florida, lived most of her life in North Carolina. She taught at Guilford College, Salem College and Sawtooth Center while conducting workshops throughout the southeast. Popular culture, science fiction, astronomy, feminism, and mythology were among the primary influences on her imagery.

The author spent nine years researching Merry's archive discovering photographs that transformed ordinary subjects into magic. Merry's prolific output and community involvement defined her as a leader in alternative photography. She stitched, collaged, composited, toned, hand-painted and sometimes sculpted. Merry insisted that "how" was secondary to "why".

Her roots in the history of photography are briefly referenced in this book citing a pivotal exhibition curated by Peter C. Bunnell, 1968, MOMA. The show included innovative, twentieth-century photographers and experimental ones as far back as the 1840s. Merry's colleagues and friends included Evon Streetman, Jerry Uelsmann, Clarence Laughlin, and Arnold Doren.

The book is divided into chapters by subject matter beginning with her most well-known series, The Moon. Other series include landscape, botany, still life and the human figure.

Although Merry obtained international recognition, the shortness of her life prevented a wider audience. She received numerous accolades and awards including seventy jurors' selections for exhibitions in twenty-eight states and ten foreign countries. Merry's works are found in the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, Reynolds Collection, Southeast Museum of Photography, Asheville Museum of Art, Chrysler Museum of Art, Chase Manhattan Bank and NYC's Floating Foundation of Photography.

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