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OCT 1 BOOK REVIEW | LARA PORZAK: THE CHEMISTRY OF MEMORY | DAMIANI BOOKS

REVIEWS (/CULTURE/CATEGORY/REVIEWS)



From *The Chemsitry of Memory,* 2026 | © Lara Porzak courtesy of Damiani Books

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Beginning her career shooting high-profile celebrity weddings, Lara Porzak is set to release her definitive first monograph this fall. “The Chemistry of Memory” meditates on photography's role in preserving moments and experiences across time.

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Lara Porzak is a fine art photographer with a fondness for ancient analog photography techniques. She uses older photographic methods such as tintypes, gelatin silver prints, vintage cameras and lenses dating from the late 1800s, and black-and-white film. She often develops images on-site with a mobile darkroom, creating physical prints and preserving moments from her assignments. Porzak sees photography as a way to hold on to fleeting moments of beauty and wonder, forever preserving emotional experiences. She aims to evoke narrative depth and emotional resonance in her viewers and to provoke them to contemplate the preservation of moments and time, and the role of photography in it.



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Her book "The Chemistry of Memory," published by Damiani Books, features more than 150 images spanning three decades of her analog work. The book features subjects such as pastoral scenes, still lifes, landscapes, animals, florals, forms and subtle human elements while meditating on photography's role in preserving presence and experience.



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The Chemistry of Memory showcases stunning images that prioritize light, time and emotion over digital perfection. Images span three decades of her work and feature fleeting moments within nature, with soft focus and expressive qualities that blur abstraction and figuration, forming a beautiful and coherent body of work, all bound together for contemplation of photography's role in preserving emotional experiences and fleeting moments.



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Lara Porzak (/culture/tag/Lara+Porzak), Damiani Books (/culture/tag/Damiani+Books)

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