

# Color It Red Mini Portfolio

Barbara Leven: *Enchanted Earth*



**If you look long enough you begin to see.** To see is to encounter the familiar and the unexpected, the same but different. It is to discern the patterns and similarities inherent in all that exists – animal, vegetable, mineral and manmade. Everything there is, made of stardust, repeats itself endlessly, in infinite variation like countless snowflakes, no two alike in a universe of snow.

These images are part of an ongoing project begun in 2005 that I call “Enchanted Earth”. I have photographed in all of New York City’s public botanic gardens, gardens in Hawaii, a community garden in Astoria, friend’s gardens, and even simply where unlikely plants manage to grow on the city streets.

The project is not just about the beauty of the flowers. It is about the life cycle of the plants, their relationship to the light, the weather, the seasons and the environment. It is about my relationship to them and to myself, what they teach me about my own mortality.

*Barbara Leven*

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