



Title: Mystical megaliths by moonlight  
Author: Andreea Anca  
Date: 2007.11.07. 08:00  
Link: <http://www.budapestsun.com/cikk.php?id=27513>

## Mystical megaliths by moonlight

**The Ring of Brodgar is a majestic circle of megaliths in northern Scotland, erected by unknown ancestors for unknown reasons several thousand years ago, long before the birth of Christ**

Although there are many researchers who assume that these stones, and other similar formations, were meeting places, grave markers or astronomical observatories, nobody really knows for certain when, how and why they were built.

In 2003, the New York-based artist Barbara Yoshida ventured with her camera and tripod into that remote part of the world, not in an attempt to elucidate the stones' mystery, but rather to embrace their magic and add to it by photographing them at night, haloed by moonlight and the glowing stars.

Yoshida's fascination with the stones drew her to search for similar formations, not only throughout the British Isles, but also in Portugal, Spain, Germany, Sweden and even as far away as Mongolia. Although she is still working on her project, she is making a stop at the Nessim Gallery, the commercial gallery in Budapest which, since its establishment last year, has been building a good reputation by associating itself with some of the best names in contemporary Hungarian fine art photography, and which exhibits, from time to time, interesting works by foreign artists such as Yoshida.

"These stones have a strong presence, people are drawn to them, and even I can't always explain my fascination," said the artist, who was present at the opening of her exhibition late last month.

"I think of them in terms of sculptures, of works of art, but people always reinvest them with meaning," said the creator of these spine-tingling photographs, who confessed to being not only a night-person but also a romantic.

Unusual

Both attributes suit her well for this unusual assignment, which starts only when everyone else has gone to bed.

"People are afraid and don't understand how wonderful it is to be outside during the night.

"It is a humbling experience to have the dome of stars above, you realize how small we are and you can then almost sense the forces at work beyond us."

The images are shot with such heightened perception and sensibility that they provide the viewer with an experience as beautiful and eerie as it is mystical.

"The moonlight and the stones are making the connection between the earth and the sky at night; the stones point upwards towards the sky, which in turn provides the light from the moon and stars to see that connection. "The stones captured me, and because of that, I tried to capture their power and their uniqueness in my work."

Yoshida developed her own photographs using a 19th century technique called photogravure in which the image is etched into a copper plate.

This really highlights the texture of the stones, and captures a wide range of nuances, ranging from deep velvety blacks to subtle grays.

The images were photographed with a 5x4 Tri-X, a Japanese camera, and Wista Field camera.

Her work here is available to buy. Those printed by photogravure cost around Ft450,000; the smaller prints, made using a conventional printing technique, cost Ft125,000.

Nessim Gallery

Pest , District VI

Paulay Ede utca 10.

Tel:266-6258

Mon-Fri

2pm-6:30pm

Until Nov 22.