



Website

www.chrisfriel.co.uk

The saying 'less is more' certainly applies to Chris Friel's website. On opening the home page, a single dark, unnerving image of a lonely house confronts you. There is no accompanying text, no captions to explain the context of the image, just the image itself, exposed in all its powerful drama.

Kent-based Chris, who is a sound recordist by trade, has been taking pictures for three years. He came to our attention after he submitted a selection of images to the AP Gallery. With our interest aroused by his eerie black & white images of lone houses and sole figures disappearing into misty expanses, we decided to see what else he had to offer on his website – and we were not disappointed. There are eight galleries in total, each showcasing a number of monochrome landscapes and portraits. In one portfolio wild horses charge across barren moors, while in another, children appear against ominous skies. Chris's distinctive photographic style – muted tones with areas of high-contrast light and shade – gives his images a supernatural and sinister quality. The simple subject matter and uncluttered approach to composition draw the viewer into a world that appears familiar, yet by the same token strange and alien.

There is no text on the website apart from the date of each image, and the omission of a biography means we don't know anything about the photographer (except that he was shortlisted in last year's Take a View landscape competition), but this only adds to the intrigue. Highly reflective and quietly intense, Chris's images pack a silent punch. Look out for an interview with Chris in a forthcoming issue of AP.

Gemma Padley

