

Artist Statement

Lens / Non-Lens Explorations -

Voyager V: Filtras System Phenomena

I am a photographer. A storyteller who visually explores obscure locations, objects and micro cultures by confounding representation through abstraction to explore shape, form, meaning and memory.

Voyager V: Filtras System Phenomena is a lensed exploration that plays with the ubiquitous shapes and forms of used coffee filters as undiscovered astronomical phenomena. The photographic results are likened to the possible kind of imaginary images that could be captured by a fictional probe flying by planetary phenomena in a fictional solar system.

Over many months I kept and dried out coffee filters. Based on the patterns of the dried coffee sediment, I'd isolate these filters and edit out the ones I wanted to photograph. Similar to the approach I used to photograph *Space Tools as Sculpture*, I used a single source LED light (with barn-doors) placed under an opaque white acrylic tabletop. Instead of film and a standard lens, I used a lensed digital capture camera capable of capturing better than 30.4 MP raw files.

I experimented with color schemes that furthered the abstraction of extra-solar system phenomena. Planetary phenomena that could have Ammonia, Nitrogen and Carbon ice atmospheres, unusual rocky surfaces and distorted celestial shapes other than perfectly circular.

Ultimately, the ideas behind this ongoing exploration have been influenced by my more than ten-year photographic documentation of the humanity behind NASA's New Horizons mission to the Pluto system. Learning from and photographing planetary scientists provided me with extraordinary behind the scenes access. It also provided me an exceptional understanding of humankind's first photographic and scientific reconnaissance of Pluto and its moons.

michaelsoluri.com
michael@soluri.com