

# Wes Bell

## BIOGRAPHY:

Wes Bell was born and raised in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. From an early age, he was fascinated by art, which led him to the studio-intensive program at the Alberta University of the Arts (formerly ACAD), where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography.

After school, he pursued a career in fashion photography. Bell lived and worked in Milan and London, eventually relocating to New York, while travelling extensively on assignments to the far corners of the world. His acute sense of design, style, and aesthetics are highly respected by fashion editors, leading to editorial spreads in publications such as *British GQ* and *Esquire*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. Celebrity portraits include actors Channing Tatum and Olivia Wilde, as well as fashion film director/fashion designer Tom Ford to name a few.

Since departing the fast-paced world of freelance fashion photography several years ago, and now residing in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Wes's sole focus is his passion for fine art photography. Gone are the days of large photography crews as now it is just Wes and his camera. Today he photographs outdoors on location, responding to the detail and natural beauty in the sparsely populated landscapes found on the edges of nearby towns and cities. The scenes are simple and ordinary. Based isolating and elevating the unseen, they expose man's encroachment on nature and nature's return of the favour. Attuned to the impermanent, ambiguous, and abstract nature of life, the photographs are multilayered in metaphors, aligning our perceptions with our emotions so that they can become accessible and visible.

Bell's photographic series *Snag* has been exhibited internationally in both solo exhibitions and numerous group shows, including *Oil. Beauty and Horror in the Petrol Age* at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg in Germany in September 2021 thru January 2022 and Rfotofolio's 2018 *Depth of Field Exhibition* at the prestigious Center for Photographic Art in Carmel, California. He is the recipient of the LensCulture Exposure Awards 2017 - Jurist Award for a Series as selected by MaryAnne Golon, Director of Photography at *The Washington Post* while also

receiving the 2017 Bronze Award for the *Royal Photographic Society International Photography Exhibition 160* in the United Kingdom. The RPS exhibition has been held almost every year since 1854 and is the longest-running exhibition of its kind in the world. Bell is a recipient of the 75th Alumni Anniversary Award of Excellence from the *Alberta College of Art & Design* in 2002. Bell's solo exhibition *Rapt & Callus: The Strange Bifurcated World of Beauty and Brutality* was recently shown at Contemporary Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada as a participant in the 2022 Exposure Photography Festival.

Projects: <http://www.wesbellphoto.com/fine-art>

[Lost for Words](#) – Series 1 – Silver Gelatin Prints (2011 – 2014)

[Final Steps](#) – Series 2 – Silver Gelatin Prints (2012 – 2013)

[Rapt](#) – Series 3 – Silver Gelatin Prints (2013 – 2017)

[Snag](#) – Series 4 – Silver Gelatin Prints (2015 – 2017)

[In Plain Site](#) – Series 5 – Silver Gelatin Prints (2015 – 2017)

[Callus](#) – Series 6 – Silver Gelatin Prints (2018 - 2020)

[Falling Through The Cracks](#) - Series 7 - Silver Gelatin Prints (2022)