The "Nature" of Radiography

Roland Talanow[1*]

1. Imaging Institute, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

* **Correspondence:** The Cleveland Clinic, Imaging Institute, Department of Nuclear medicine, 9500 Euclid Ave., 44195 Cleveland, Ohio, USA (*roland@talanow.info*)

Radiology Case. 2009 Nov; 3(11):41-42 :: DOI: 10.3941/jrcr.v3i11.266

ABSTRACT

This editorial is dedicated to an academic surgeon who has developed and sophisticated radiographic techniques to make art out of nature over the last 40 years.

EDITORIAL

Dr. Myers is a retired academic surgeon (Professor of Surgery at LSUMC) who has always had a serious interest in Photography as art. In 1972 he studied with Ansel Adams at the last course "the master himself taught".

In the 1980's as part of his medical research he obtained a precision X-ray machine, and used it to make images of the very small blood vessels growing into healing wounds (microangiography). Some of the images looked to him like abstract paintings, which sparked the idea to explore the uses of X-ray as an art medium. Initially, all X-ray images were in black and white, but in the late 1980's he began making them in color, using filters in the enlarger and Cibachrome paper. Recently he started digitizing the images and adding color in PhotoShop (1). Although he still does some straight photography, generally he manipulates the images in the darkroom, making copies on high contrast film to obtain photographs that look like drawings (line derivations and prints from solarized negatives).

Dr. Myers tried also to develop holography as a 3 dimensional medical teaching method, and studied at the Holography Institute in California. He made over 100 holograms of bones and tissue specimens preserved by plantination. Those images are now in the Smithsonian awaiting Congressional funding of a new Museum of Health and Medicine. He has also studied at the Santa Fe School of Photography. Since retiring in 2000 he has devoted himself to using X-ray as art and has published a book on the subject which gives the technique in enough detail that anyone with access to an X-ray machine can duplicate his work (2). Furthermore, Dr. Myers some of his artwork can be previewed on his website (3) and - for art lovers - high quality printouts can be also ordered.

Most recently, Dr. Myers joined an international art initiative to develop a virtual "Radiology museum" in which his artwork has been included (4).

The Radiology museum has received contributions by several international well-renown artists in Radiology and other medical fields. The idea of this art initiative was born in the international Radiology community Radiolopolis (5) by members of a dedicated Radiology art group. This art group invites everybody to join who is interested in learning more about and also contributing to art in Radiology.

Anyone who wishes to contact Dr. Myers for help with learning to X-ray flowers or any other reason can reach him at:

Bert Myers
37 Lark St.
New Orleans, LA 70124
Phone: + (1) 504 282 4022
Cell: + (1) 504 875 8878
Email: mbmyers1@cox.net
Website: http://wwwbmyersphoto.com

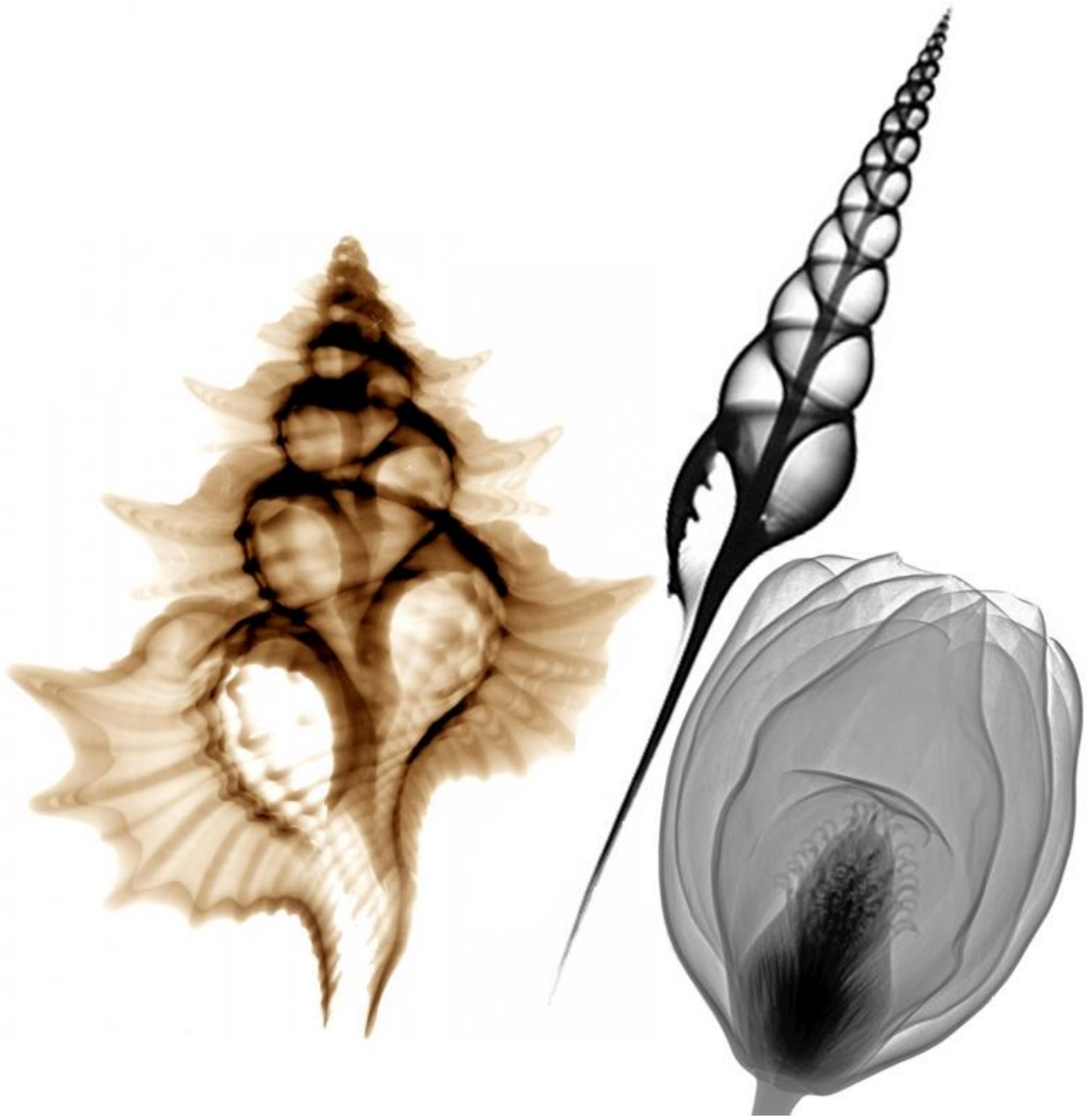

Figure 1: Examples of Bert Myers' art work. Left: Positive sepia toned B+W X-ray of the shell Maple leaf triton shell (Gyrineum perca) The scanned X-ray was opened in PhotoShop and color added. Center: Positive B+W X-ray image of a tibia shell (Tibia fusis). Right: Positive B+W X-ray image of the flower (Bud) of the Magnolia grandiflor tree.

REFERENCES

1. Photoshop, Adobe. URL: http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/index.html - Last accessed: 10/28/2009

2. Bert Myers. The inner Beauty of Nature. Applejack Art Partners; 1ST edition (2007)

3. Bert Myers Fine Art Photography. URL: http://www.bmyersphoto.com/ - Last accessed: 10/28/2009

4. The Virtual Radiology Museum. URL: http://www.radiologymuseum.org/ - Last accessed: 10/28/2009

5. Radiolopolis - the professional Radiology network for education, research and clinical practice. URL: www.radiolopolis.com - Last accessed: 10/28/2009

Online access

This publication is online available at:
www.radiologycases.com/index.php/radiologycases/article/view/266

Published by EduRad

www.EduRad.org