



An Artist's Perspective: "Sound Energy" by Michael McGrath

Photograph by Michael McGrath of Kurt Ottaway, his band is called Emerald Siam.

Michael McGrath, a Denver-based artist and alumnus of the University of Northern Colorado, will present his exhibit "Sound Energy" at the Tointon Gallery, 651 10th Ave., and will be on display Friday, June 21 through Saturday, July 20. "Sound Energy," seeks to communicate moments of transcendence in live music.

Inspired by the energy of rock 'n' roll music and the Rolling Stones concert he attended in 5th grade, McGrath has been transfixed with the concept of transmitting the energy of rock 'n' roll music into imagery and has been photographing live-music for the last 30 years. His photographs seek to capture the energy of live music, and attempt to evoke the excitement and energy of attending a rock 'n' roll concert where emotions are running high. For McGrath, art serves as a way to transcend the viewer's day-to-day life and provide the viewer a front row seat to a concert, all without leaving the gallery.

According to Michael McGrath's artist statement: "The energy of rock and roll, of music in general, has captivated me since I fell in love with the Rolling Stones when I was 10 years old. For the last 30 years, my life's great passion has been transmitting this energy into imagery. My photographs seek to capture the energy of live music- to freeze in time the moment that makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up when you hear or see something that really moves you. To me, the whole point of art is transcendence; my photographs seek to capture the decisive moment an artist becomes the art. I'll never forget the way the Rolling Stones made me feel, as a 5th grader: cool, excited, emotional, and energetic. I make photos to capture those feelings in a visual medium."