

Little Fans

Here are little fans to cool my face.
I can peel them from their log home
and wave them swiftly to make a breeze.

Their wide half-circle of stripes
is called a false turkey tail,
like layered feathers of the bird,
a large creature more pretentious
than these ephemeral mushrooms,
gracing the woods with soft colors.

Marilyn Peretti

Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Patterns: The Art of Fungi

Warren Krupsaw

Warren Krupsaw takes remarkable photos. He is emphatic, "As a nature photographer (landscape, detail, animals, and everything in between), I'm here to tell you, and better yet, show you, that fungi make for great subjects since they really are a world of their own." He is not so much after the edibles, when he stalks the woods it's the photogenic specimens he's after. "Fungi have the potential to be so much more up-close and personal if one concentrates on their unusual design elements. They appear as if from another world and are considered separate from plants, animals, and bacteria although recent genetic studies have shown that fungi are more closely related to animals than to plants. Not containing chlorophyll (like plants) they depend on other organisms for nutrition. Able to grow in a wide range of habitats, fungi have a worldwide distribution including such extreme environments as deserts or areas with high salt concentrations." Krupsaw enters this "alien world" of the fungi with eyes wide open, observant of things above and below the regular line of sight. "Often the underside gills are more interesting than the outer more visible portion, with their intricate designs geometric or curvaceous, so don't be put off by a plain-looking cap. If you're into patterns, look closely, as sometimes exquisite details are revealed. The most saturated color is to be encountered just after they've been saturated (e.g. after precipitation) on a cloudy day."

Warren Krupsaw, a one-time student (and house guest) of Ansel Adams is a nature photographer concentrating on landscape and detail. After participating in the first year of a new graduate program in Photography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Minor White, he earned an MFA in Photography under Harry Callahan at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1968. See more at: "<http://www.pbase.com/thekrupgallery>" and at "32 Intriguing Examples of Fungi Photography." 











