

JUSTIN MAXON

Slow down...breathe...only this life (2010, ongoing)

This project is about my transition from a path of chaos to one of healing. For the past decade, I have been running away from phantoms within. The healthy parts of my life that used to enrich it fell away- family, friends, love. I found myself in a space between worlds: a visitor to everything around me, a stranger to my own life. I realized a crossroads was approaching, a choice to be made. I took the route that curved back into me, threading the fractured parts of myself back into place. The complex nature of the imagery portrays the nature of my own mind. I have been lost inside a maze of thoughts, attempting to make sense of everything twisted and tangled. Multiple exposures are layered together in camera, creating a patchwork of feelings.

When complete, this body of work will intertwine, as threads of memory are layered over strings of the present, weaving my own road-map back into place to insure I am no longer walking blindly, stumbling over a path obscured by the shadows of my past.

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JUSTIN MAXON

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Justin Maxon was born in a small town in the woods of northern California. His interest in photography blossomed from a time in his life when he worked as a wilderness trail crew leader for a youth corps in the forests of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

As a student of journalism, he began exploring projects that held greater social implications. His desire was to reveal the conflicted existence of different variables of truth. His work often delves into the complexity of human struggle and perseverance. He recently shifted towards examining more private issues that are an abstract representation of his past. Maxon has received numerous awards for his photography, from competitions like World Press Photo and UNICEF Images of the Year. He was named one of PDN's 30 Emerging Photographers to Watch. Most recently, he was selected to participate in World Press Photo's 2010 Joop Swart Masterclass. He has worked on feature assignments for *TIME*, *Newsweek*, *Mother Jones Magazine*, *Fader Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *NPR*.