



### **GUARDIANS: *Protectors of Children's Souls***

*"GUARDIANS"* is a series of photographs exploring issues related to loss and hope.

In this series, I am using the term "guardian" to refer to the historic markers found on children's graves throughout the South. In American history, especially during the Civil War era, children were among the highest casualties, particularly infants. If the perils of war did not claim them, then the Yellow Fever epidemic snatched them from this earth. Often, parents marked the child's grave with a guardian such as a lamb, dove, or angel, or even a replica of the family dog. The little creature gives hope that the child's soul has an advocate.

Although I personally don't believe in heaven except for dogs, little children and soldiers fighting for lost causes, I make these images to capture the essence of their spiritual protectors. My intent is for the viewer to experience sentiment, yet expect redemption.

For exhibition, these color archival digital prints are 16X24" (image) and 22X30" (mat). I craft my images to evoke a ghost-like presence. I often shoot in the rain to emulate tears and manipulate the backgrounds to appear like watercolors. I print on heavy-toothed fine art paper to simulate the granite and marble of the markers.