

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## To the Tree: a Photographic Paean

Maurice Amiel · Monday, September 6th, 2021

**The tree**, as early as I can remember, impressed me as being the tallest plant around, that acquired its qualities from being *useful*, i.e. providing *shade, oxygen, bloom, fruit and wood*.

What I wish to illustrate and discuss here, *based on my photographs*, is the *expressive value* of the tree, i.e. *how it contributes by its sheer presence to the perceptual experience of sites and/or situations ... all in a light mode!*

**Between lake and woods, there is nothing like a flowering tree to bring them together ... photographically that is.**



A blooming transition between lake and grove

**When a simulated mountain clearing visually needed an anchor, nothing like a specimen tree to fulfill the need.**



The visual power of the fan shaped branches of a specimen tree

**When urban row housing dwellers need privacy, there is nothing like a row of trees to draw attention away from the buildings.**





Sun lit tree tops to let our eyes focus on the street and not the building façades

**When the moon seems so far away, two trees mounting the guard over a picnic shed will help visually reach for it.**



Earth boy, shelter, and trees cozying under a dusk moon

**When moon and street light visually need a mid-distance marker, photographically, tree branches will bring it all together.**





The visual organizing power of tree branches in a photograph of street elements at nightfall

**When a quiet pond needs something to reflect off it, the tree is always happy to oblige.**



How to see the image of a tree above and the edge of that tree simultaneously

**When the overhead sky feels distant and monotonous, trees will be happy to hold their**



**branches across its barren extent.**



Trees as visual animation of an otherwise dull sky

**When trees gather to keep company, benches and people will usually follow.**



Urban gathering of trees and people

## End words

Let us do what is necessary to keep the trees from burning by the millions.

*Credit all photos to Maurice Amiel*

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