

# The New Normal

Matt Callaway

Q14140438

### Artist Statement

I have a passion for nature and wildlife, and I love to go out and explore the unknown wilderness. "The New Normal" is a project which is meaningful to me and something that I feel passionate about by sharing my love for nature and capturing its beauty. However, due to the events of the last couple of years and as someone considered "vulnerable", I have been unable to go out as much as I would have liked to. Now that restrictions are easing and I am once again able to go outside like I used to, it feels such a long time since my old life was put on hold, that I have almost forgotten how to appreciate the natural world in all its beauty.

I feel that photography is the best way to show the audience my personal feelings and emotions about coming out of lockdowns and emerging into a new world where one can never be too careful around others anymore. My intention for this project is to demonstrate that not everyone is comfortable with going back to life "as normal" and that it is okay to still be wary and apprehensive of things we used to take for granted. I will communicate this is by adding quotes based on my own thoughts accompanied by my own visual interpretations. I have elected to shoot distorted abstract images of nature, particularly in woods and forests which are often secluded environments that allow me to be free, to explore, and to contemplate.

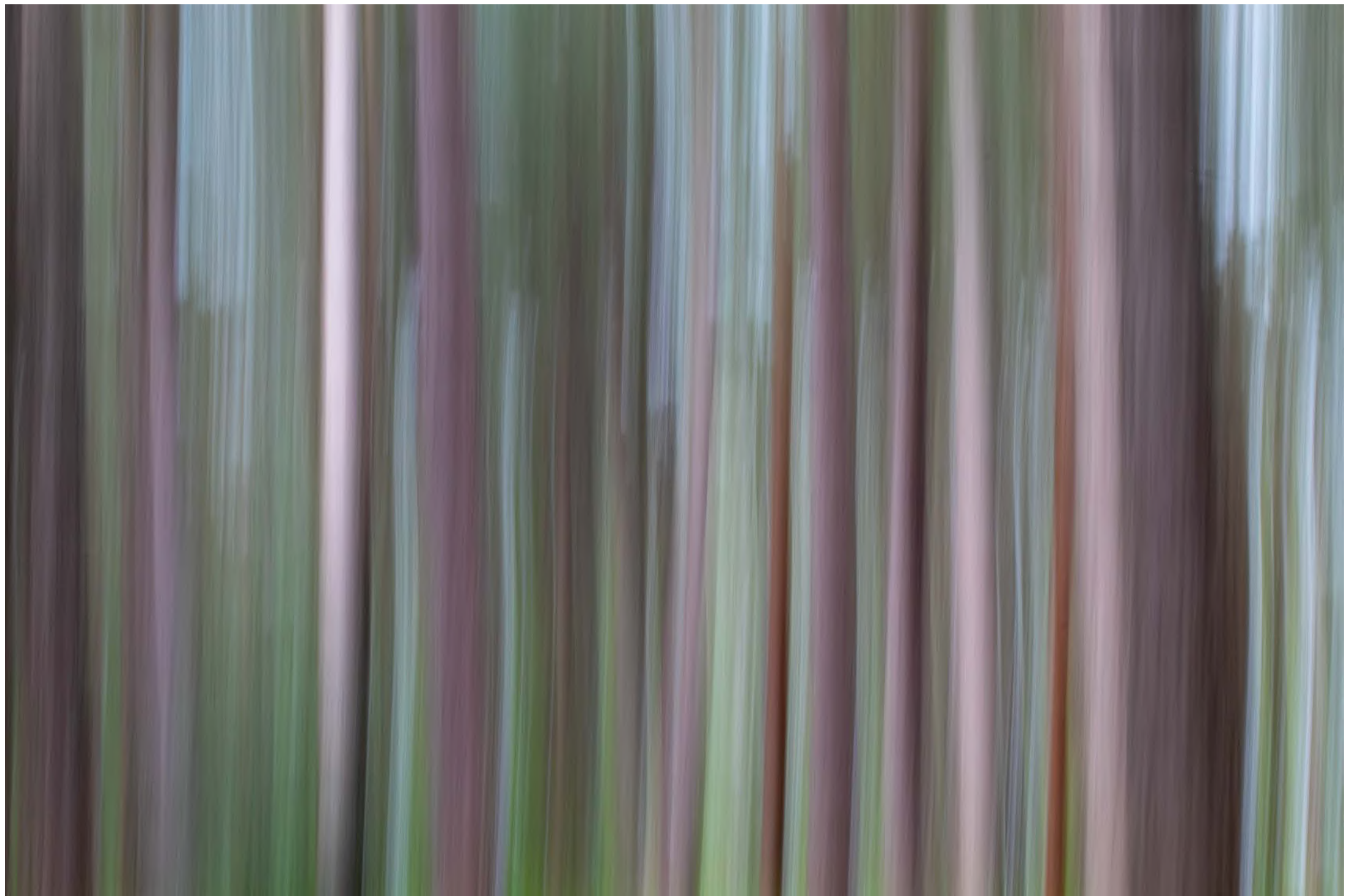




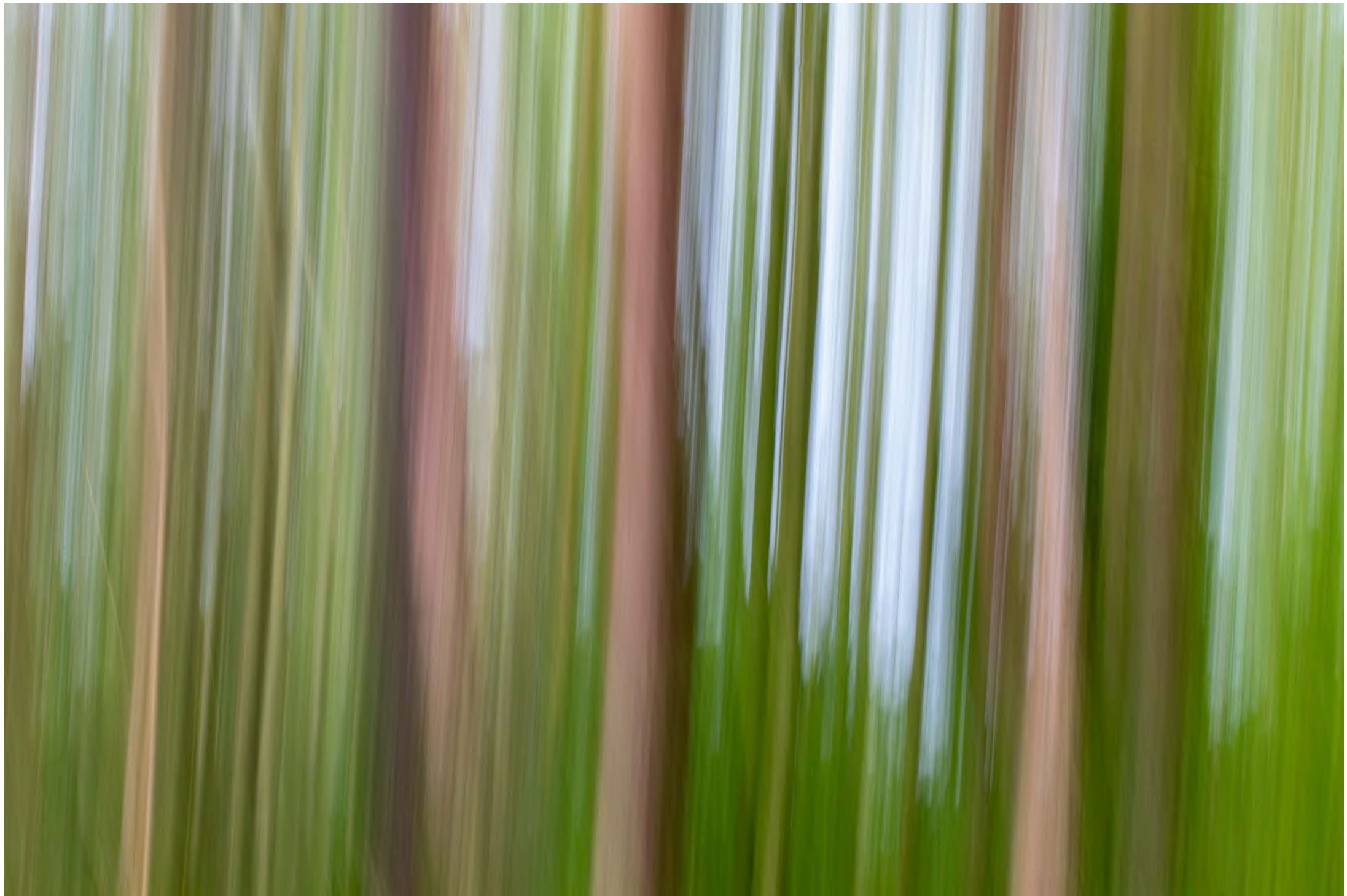




“I have forgotten how to love things I used to love”











“I no longer see things how I used to see them”











“I’m comfortable with being lonely all the time”











“Everywhere I go is unfamiliar”









“This is my new normal”