

M A R T I N C O O P E R

E M E R G E N C E

The Emergence Collection is a trilogy: DREAM INTO MOTION, EMERGENCE, and MYTH OF ASCENSION. It is an allegory of the quest for *excellence*, expressed through a narrative of nudes. Each image depicts a step of the journey, and each cycle is a plateau of self-discovery. *The Emergence Collection* fuses the power of the written word to image. Encapsulating the essence of each section in a poem, or tenet further solidifies the concept. The titles of the photographs are a direct reference to its tenet, and to the order in which we as individuals experience life, thereby depicting steps of the journey. Each section, as a whole, embodies a plateau of self-discovery. The beauty of this project is that we *all* experience these cycles in life. There is a wonderful and moving universality to this concept.

DREAM INTO MOTION, the first cycle, marks the turning point of self-realization. It is the *process* of awakening the knowledge within: *stretching ideas*, inducing *motion*, and actively seeking truth about ourselves and the world around us. We discover our discipline, and the courage to manifest our goals and dreams. We take this first step in all our endeavors.

EMERGENCE, the middle cycle, earmarks the path of self-empowerment. The equilibrium inherent to this state of mind is maintained by a devotion to integrity and faith. It is in this fragile balance that we bring life into our art, and produce our best work. This is the life of creativity and the essence of the journey.

The final cycle of this journey is MYTH OF ASCENSION. This is an homage to the powers greater than we. It is an attempt to explain the natural

experience into which each creative person enters to find inspiration. *The Universal Canopy* is this mythical destination we each visit when creativity is in sync with excellence. The only proof of its universal existence is the phenomena of how an idea permeates the world, beyond language barrier and cultural membrane. This phenomenon indicates a universal creative source. The topography of this domain is expressed through characters and emotional states. Martin Cooper uses the pussy willow to personify a field of intangible energy, like stars in the heavens, or the euphoria of creativity. To take it a step further, it is the figurative embodiment of the energy within the Universal Canopy.