



IAN LOCKWOOD

I have titled this picture 'Kalakad Tree'. The tree in the photograph had a new flush of leaves that were a bright yellow in the morning light. I was on a tight budget and using a Yashicamat 6x6 that I had bought 4th hand or so in Ooty. I had brought along a few precious roles of Konica infrared 120 film (which is no longer manufactured), something that I liked to use for the dramatic effect that it gives to landscapes. It is also very effective in reducing dust, a perennial problem with some of the views that I experienced. The lens had an unusual bayonet filter ring and I had to hold a conventional 52mm red filter over the lens manually with the camera fixed on a tripod.

The exposure was probably something like 1/15 at f/11 (development in D-76 1:1). Given the chance of error, I shot it several times and also took shots in colour with a polarizing filter.

I developed the film as soon as I could but it took me another year or two to print out the image because of my teaching commitments and studies. Each time I print this picture, I do a considerable amount of dodging and burning to bring out the highlights in the foliage. The infrared film turns chlorophyll to bright white, something that is an integral part of the composition. I've hand-printed the image in 15x15 inches for my exhibitions in New Delhi and Mumbai.

I like *Kalakad Tree* because it depicts the grandeur and beauty that I associate with the southern Western Ghats.

Kalakad Tree is a reflection of serene moments where the right elements came together and I had the good fortune to be there with the right equipment to make the image. I am now working more rigorously on plant identification and wish that I had been able to identify the tree species.

