

from the RODNEY SMITH *archive*



Reed Skiing, Lake Placid, New York, 2008, 20" x 20", Archival Print

A Lake Less than Placid

Reed Kelly, model and acrobat, takes us back to Lake Placid in 2008 during the biggest snowstorm in a century.

You knew it was going to be snowy because we were going up to Lake Placid. But as we were getting there, it just started snowing and then didn't stop. We shot during the largest ice storm that they had in 100 years. The power was out at the inn we were staying in. The power was out everywhere. The trees were bent over with ice. It looked like we were on another planet.

We walked out in the morning and it was like everything was covered in glass.

It was stunning. It also made everything really slippery.

I remember when we were doing this shot on the highway. Rodney was like, *what if you're on your skis and you're standing there?* We're like, okay, cool. But it's a really winding road. And it was busy!

We'd run out. Put the skis down. Get the shot. Run. Get out of the way of the cars and pick up the skis. It was like playing street hockey where you're like, game over.

So while we were doing this shoot, it was so cold that eventually Renate, Rodney's stylist, had to duct tape hand warmers to my body.

It was mayhem. We always did such crazy things.

So much of our photo shoots together would be like, let's try a thing. Let's try that. With Rodney, I don't think it was ever just *I'm going to shoot this suit*. Everything that I was a part of was always more than just about a suit.

And I think that's what's different with Rodney—he was always creating art. He

always had incredible visions of what he imagined and then he would put you in that world.

To read Rodney's original blog post with this image, click [here](#).



A collection of oral histories from the Rodney Smith archive