

apr.may.jun.2013





Welcome to the elusive Issue #9 of Fourx5, and hello 2013!

Thanks for sticking around despite our little break for the first quarter, sometimes you need to recharge to move forward. And moving forward is exactly what we've done. 12 fresh photographers splash our pages for your enjoyment. New and fresh is what the first issue of the year is about. We've got something for everyone- from ballerinas to droplets to trees to skaters, you'll be amazed at how much awe-some we can fit into one issue.

Susan Vasconcelos Co-Founder, Lead Designer & Editor W. Anthony Johnson Co-Founder & Art Director As always, find us at facebook.com/Fourx5 and/or feel free to drop us a line fourx5mag@gmail.com





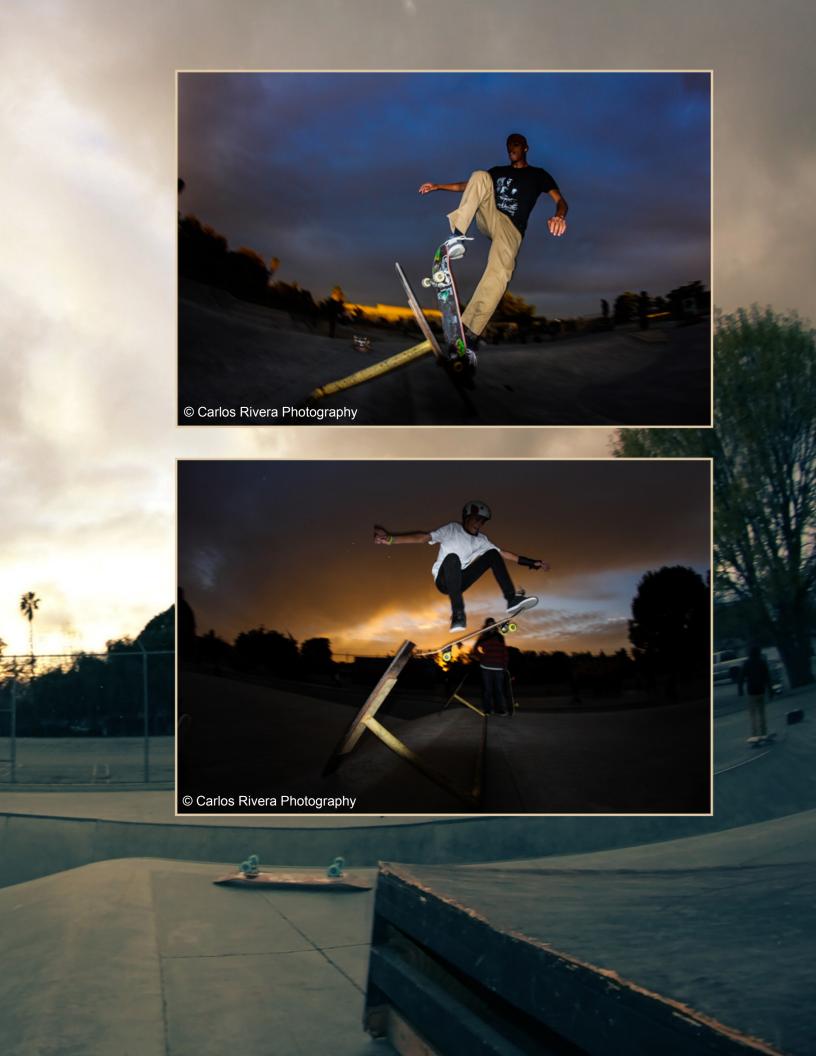


CARLOS RIVERA

caught in motion

Skateboarding has always been a part of my life. I started skateboarding from an early age and started filming when I was 13. I used a point and shoot to record videos of my friends and I skating and that introduced me to cameras. Although I skate off and on now, I still love to shoot photos of the sport that I've been around for so long.







"THE ONLY PERSON YOU ARE DESTINED TO BECOME IS THE PERSON YOU DECIDE TO BE."

-RALPH WALDO EMERSON



CONNER ALLEN

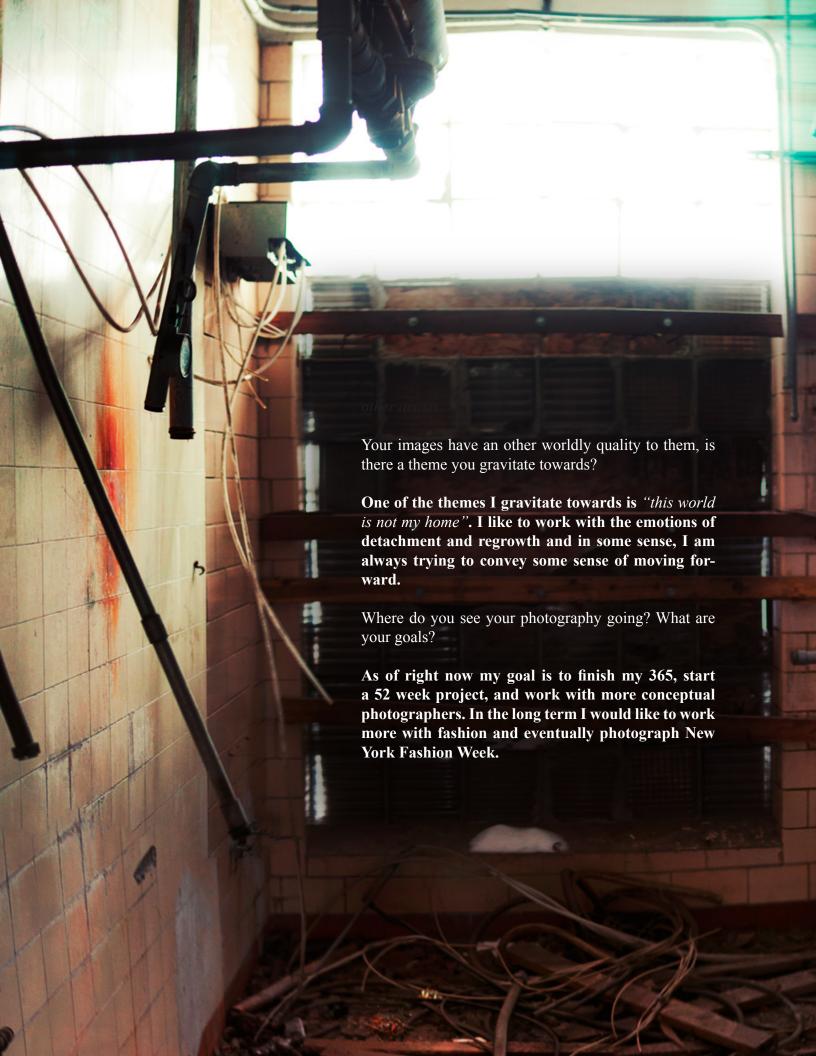
a concept of self

My name is Conner Allen and I am a 20 year old conceptual portrait photographer based out of the Inland Northwest.

My work is really just a representation of myself in other people, and when I photograph them, I want the photo to be multi-dimensional. I want them to see a depth in themselves that they couldn't see beforehand, and to go back into a moment in their life when they felt alive, even though the photograph is an imaginary possession of a past that is unreal. I am inspired by the natural wonder of the world, and even though my work is by no means landscape work, I want the viewer to see the natural beauty of this world as a focal point, not necessarily the main point, but merely part of the world we are all a part of. My goal is to work in conceptual editorial through a magazine or organization on the West Coast, along with working on personal projects with local designers, and















Katrina Marie places of serenity

My name is Katrina Kennedy, I am a published photographer and artist located in the Metro Atlanta area. I specialize in creative portraiture as well as photo manipulation. I like to explore the fantasy world, the connections between the human body and nature, and the unknown. Recently, a lot of my themes have been driven by conceptual/levitation photography. I'm still working on crafting the type of art, as it's been the most inspiring type of photography I've come across. Most of my inspirations come from dreams, or my 2d and 3d work. Eventually I want to end up incorporating my artwork into my photo shoots.

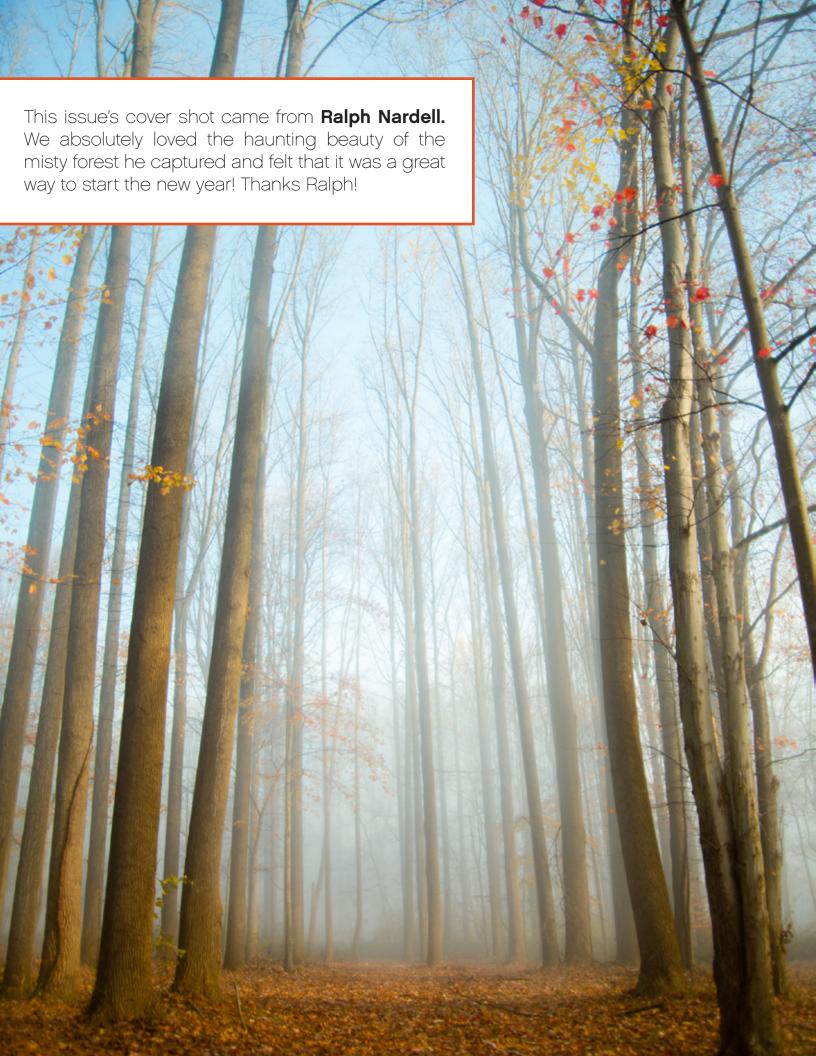














Here is where the longing sits, in neglected windows cracked and wood bulged and swollen

waiting for

you to come along and rub sandpaper caresses and brush colour blushes across my skin and you would remind me

of nervous expectation, swollen bellies and that first cry into the wind.

She would stare out past the carefully watered apple trees, the endless sky that melted into the golden rays of wheat fields where her children would plan and dance and bleed out into the earth.

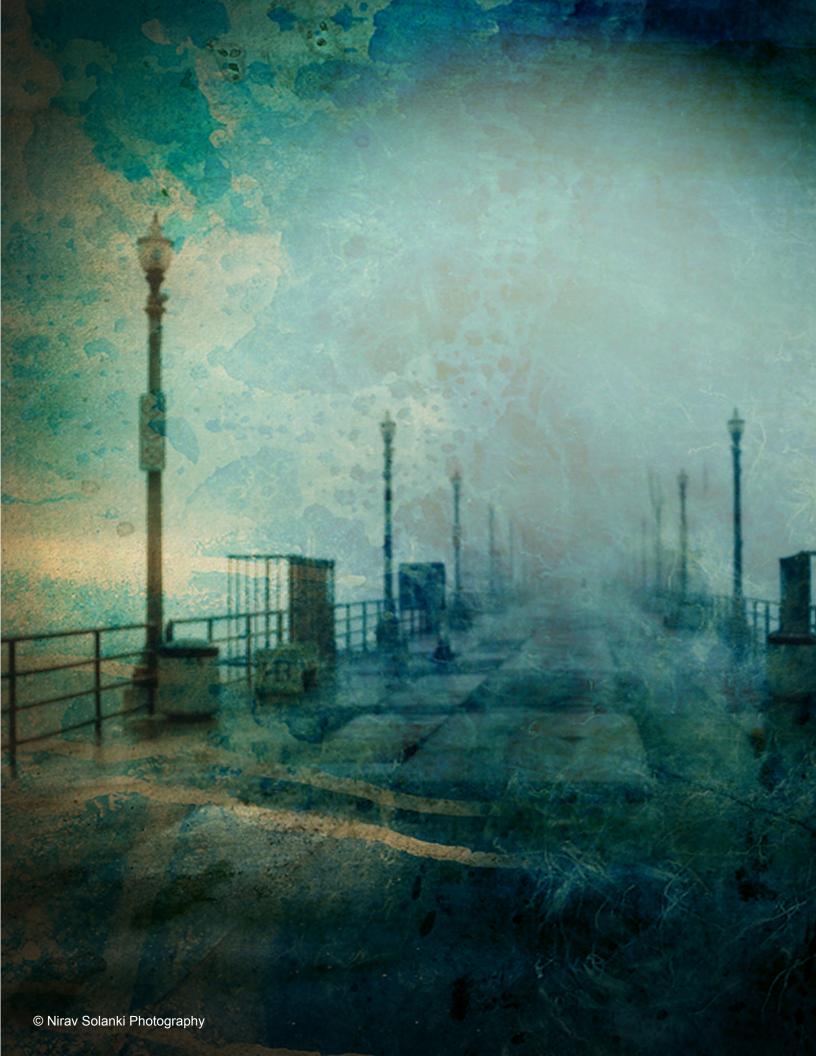
And she would long for something else, something rocky and hilly, jagged edges to contain her wild desires her expectation.

And she found it in his smooth talking voice of soft fingers and he dipped into her jagged edges and drove her mad with longing as she packed up her suitcase, that one housedress with the tear sewn over too many times and she ran into the wild night skimming on heels saved for weddings and funerals.

Her voice lost to the bright lights his hands bloody dipped into someone else and a bottle of whiskey scorched her dreams. and here is where the longing sits, in neglected windows cracked and wood bulged and swollen waiting for the laughter of children long since gone, apple trees brushed with death brittle and parched and you would remind me of whisky eyes hunched over a slot machine, eyes nervous expectation swollen sullen and that first cry into the wind.

> Darlene Kreutzer www.hippyurbangirl.com





NIRAV SOLANKI geometric texture

Nirav is a *self-taught photographer* who has turned what began as a hobby into a life-style and profession. Although the subject matter of his work varies greatly, his portfolio is united by a **gracefully artistic composition**. His work captures the essence of the subject matter while keeping open the possibility of imaginative interpretation. In a sense, his work could accurately be considered modern; however, there is a timeless quality to his work that one will notice instantly.

One of the most notable characteristics of his work is the fact that he so elegantly captures the way in which the geometrical form of the natural world so subtlety projects itself into our social world. **The line dividing natural from artificial comes into question.** In other words, there is an organic unity of composition which greatly characterizes his work.



What made you start using textured overlays and why?

I started using textures for my *Rhyaan* collection in particular. I was trying to achieve a very dark & mysterious look with the entire collection to differentiate between the rest of my works.

You've got quite a variety of subjects and styles, what would you say is your favorite and why?

My favourite shoot was with Nick Warren. With his extensive experience shooting in many countries, this was his first photoshoot in Los Angeles, so it made the entire photo session much more interesting to capture. He was also open to creativity to better enhance the pictures from most of previous sessions.









Phil Bailey the push and pull of beauty



Hey there, My name is Phil Bailey. I live in Christchurch, New Zealand. I am a *self taught photographer* that has been taking photos for a little over 3 years now. I mostly do portrait, wedding and concept photography and am loving every moment of it, and the journey of finding my style along the way.



Your soft technique with not so soft subjects attracted me to your work, would you say that is your niche?

Wow that's an interesting point. I believe that true beauty can be found in the darkness, and through those that dare to be different (compared to want most consider the norm) so I like to push that but pull it all back in some way to force people to look at people/things in another way. I think as people we are becoming very narrow minded and judgemental, so if I can tick a few boxes in peoples heads and make them think a little more differently I'd be very happy. I like to add an element of energy to my images, weather it be light, emotion etc. so I think that ties into that too. I got into photography after the death of my son as a way to keep me busy and to heal, so I have a strong connection to him through doing all this. It's not generally something I point out to people but as I look at my work I know it has a big influence on it, and I'm actually very happy that is the case.

Where do you get your inspiration from and what would be a dream shoot for you?

Like I said above, my son gives me a lot of energy, and the love of my family. So my inspiration is internal more than anything. I don't really follow any particular photographers. I love meeting new people and hearing their ideas and working from that.

A dream shoot for me, gosh. Probably going to an amazing remote location and using the natural backdrops as the main focus. Always wanted to go to America, somewhere like the Nevada desert maybe.









all the world is a stage

was born 1989, in Lithuania. Since my childhood I was attracted to visual arts, painting mostly. I had a dream to become fashion costume designer when I grow up. When I aged 14 things changed. I didn't lose my passion for painting, but the camera dad gave me drew me into photography. Since then, I started taking self-portrait and gained some photography experience. Later I started reading books about photography and wasn't taking any pictures for the time being. When I was 18 I bought my first digital camera and started taking pictures of nature and became addicted to macro photography, as camera revealed worlds unseen by a naked eye.

When I graduated from school I studied, Technology of photography at Vilnius University of Applied Engineering Sciences, and gained Photo Journalist bachelor degree. *In photography my most beloved avenues are portrait and dance photography, especially ballet.*

















We asked our photographers for music that inspired them, this is what we got! Click on them and feel the vibe

































Your close-ups of plants and flowers are so chock full of texture, what turned you on to photographing them? Did you know you'd find so much going on in there?

Before we moved to Arizona, we lived in Lubbock, Texas and I worked for a floral shop there.

The owner asked me to start taking photographs of the bouquets and arrangements for their web site.

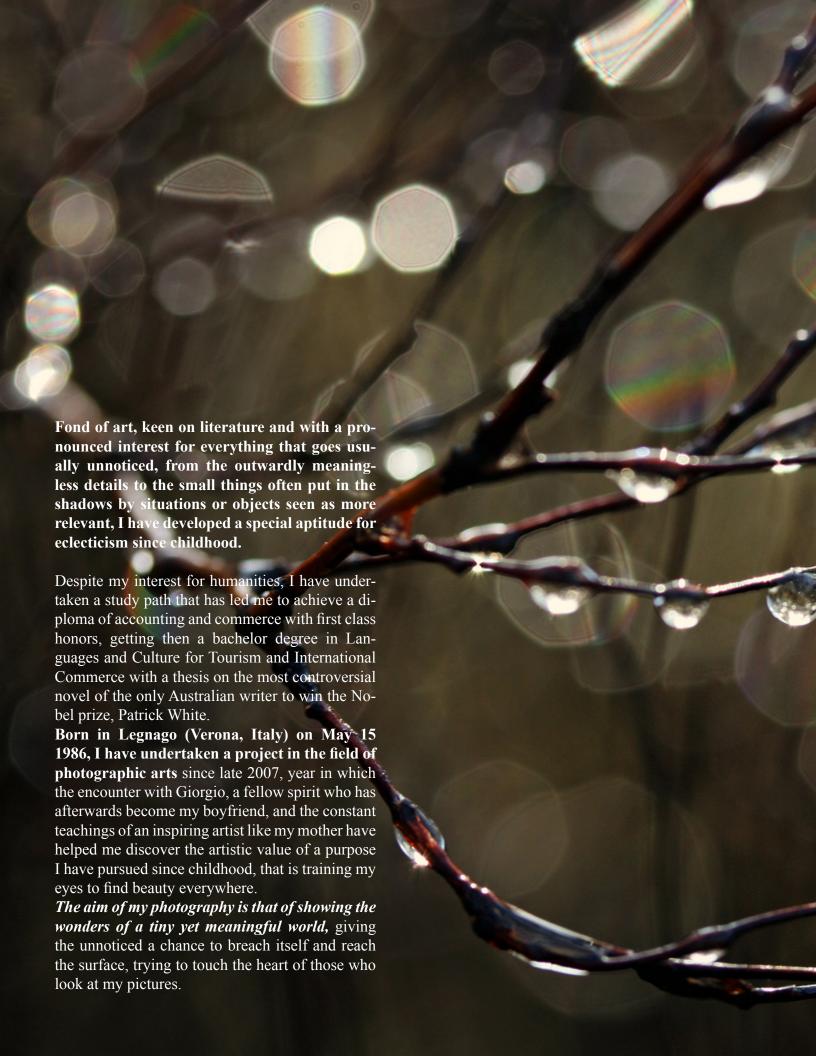
When I started doing this, I started noticing all of the little details that make up a flower and how if you turn it this way or that way, you see a completely new world. Stopping and smelling the roses took on a whole new meaning for me.

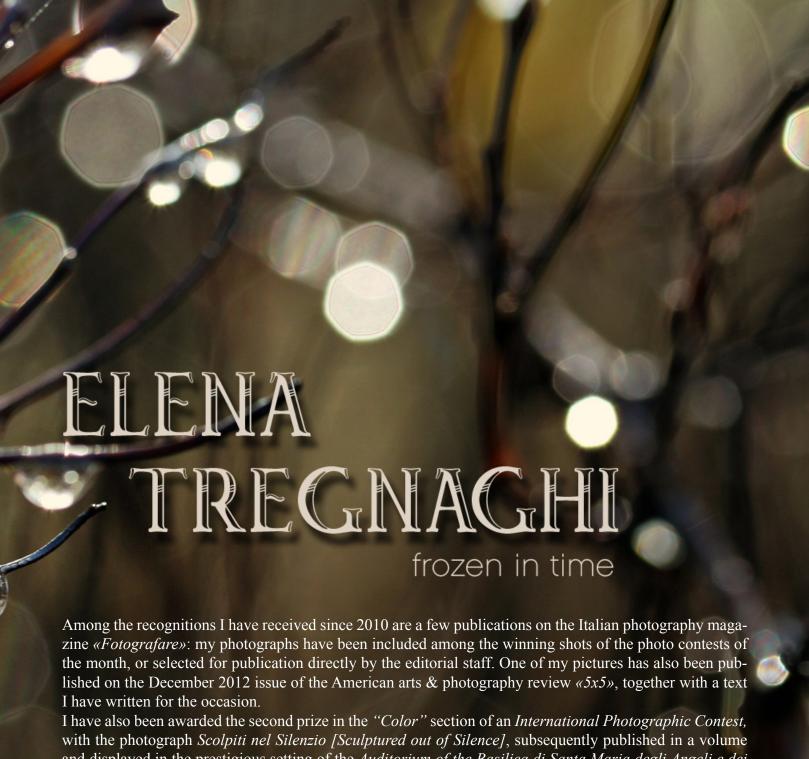
Your scenic images are vast and clear, have you always been a nature person?

I was born and raised in a small town in New Mexico and because it is considered the Land Of Enchantment, my parents made a point of showing us what big skies and open spaces can mean. As children, my sister and I spent a lot of time outdoors, either riding our horses or playing in the dirt. It was very natural for me to make myself a landscape challenge last year that was to spend more time practicing my landscape captures.







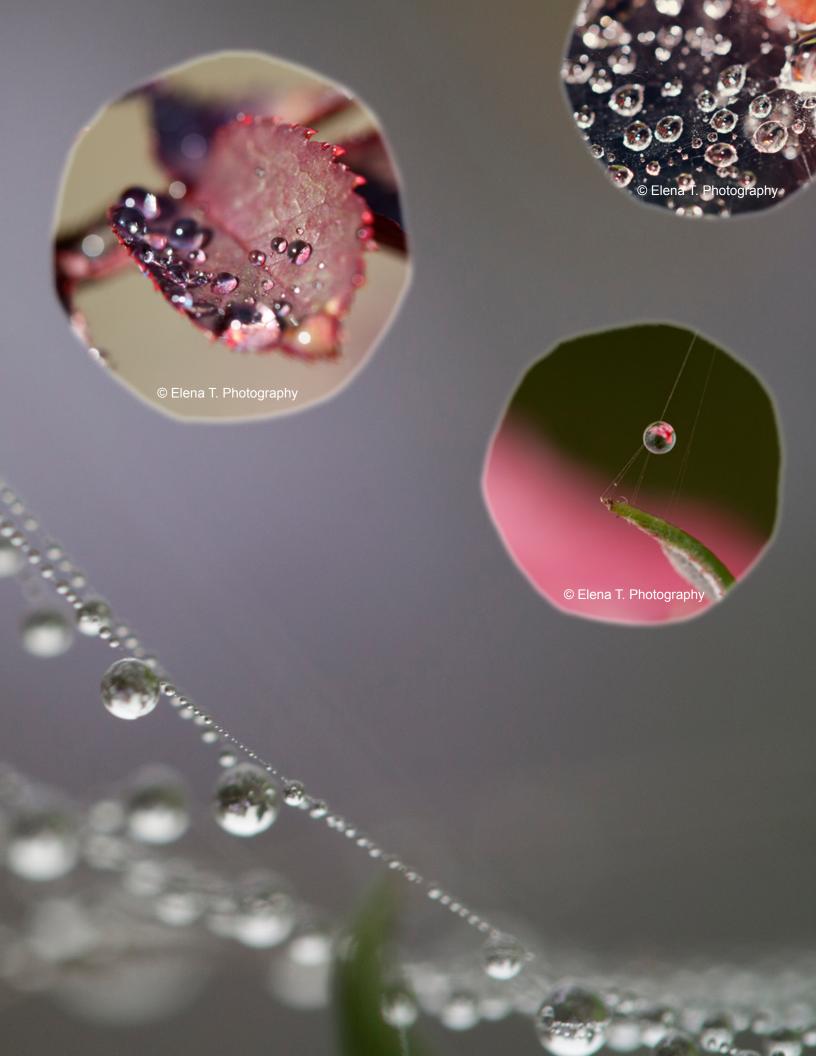


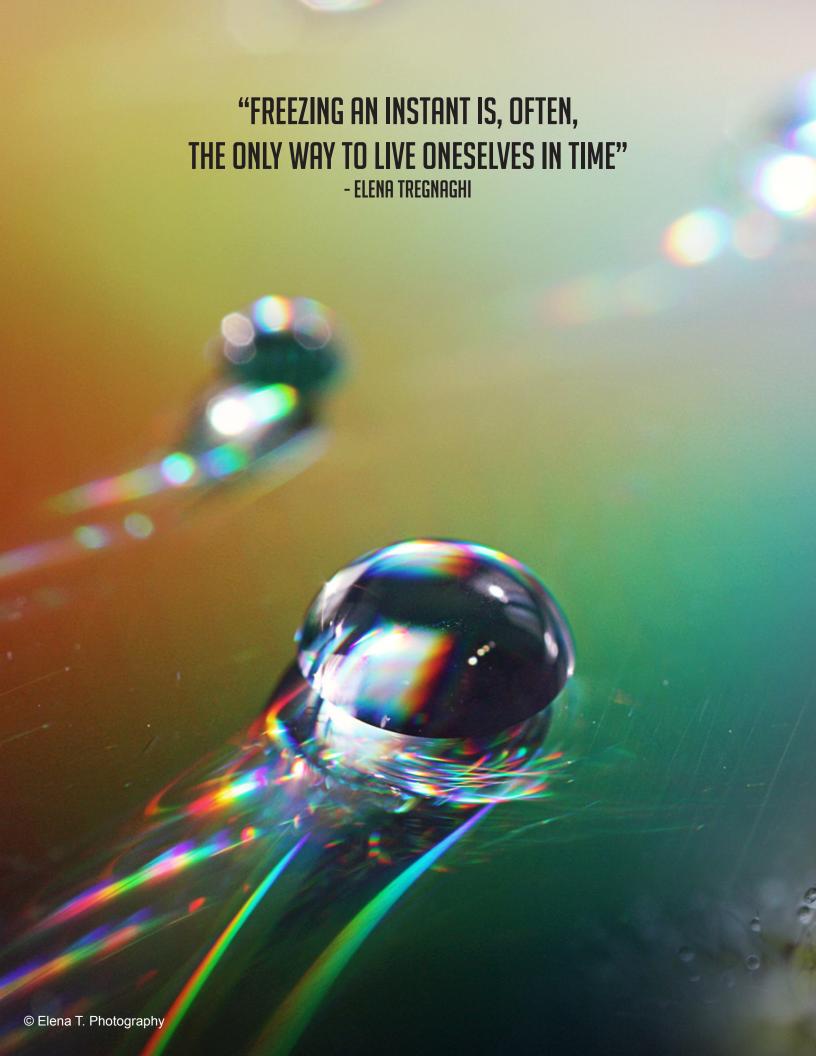
I have also been awarded the second prize in the "Color" section of an International Photographic Contest, with the photograph Scolpiti nel Silenzio [Sculptured out of Silence], subsequently published in a volume and displayed in the prestigious setting of the Auditorium of the Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri in Rome, where another of my pictures has been afterwards displayed on the occasion of another contest.

Other photographs have received honorable mentions during other photography contests.











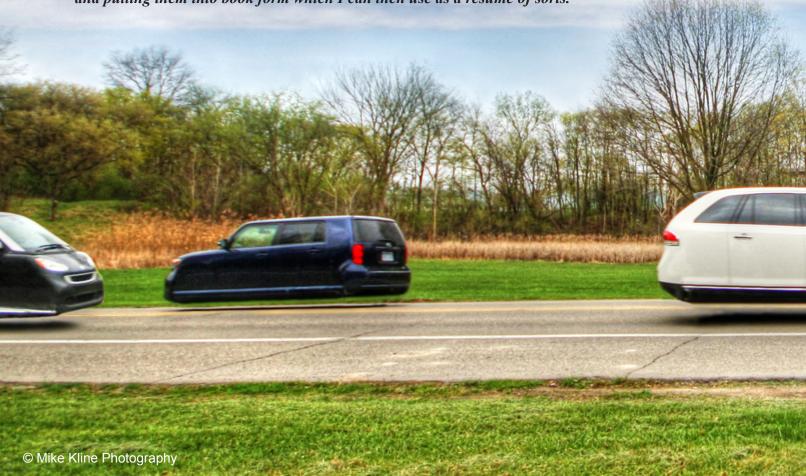
MIKE KLINE

manipulated visions

I'm a 43 year old, married father of two, living in Canton, Michigan. I consider myself to be a creative-ly eclectic person, and I am happiest when I am doing something that allows me to use my imagination. I fell into photography in 2011 when I went to Detroit to take pictures of graffiti, and ended up meeting a bunch of great Detroit-area photographers. When I saw their work, I knew I had a lot to learn. I had been bitten by the photography bug. I started trying different techniques, asked my new-found friends a lot of questions, and went everywhere with my camera.

Digital manipulation, why and how did you wind up working in this style

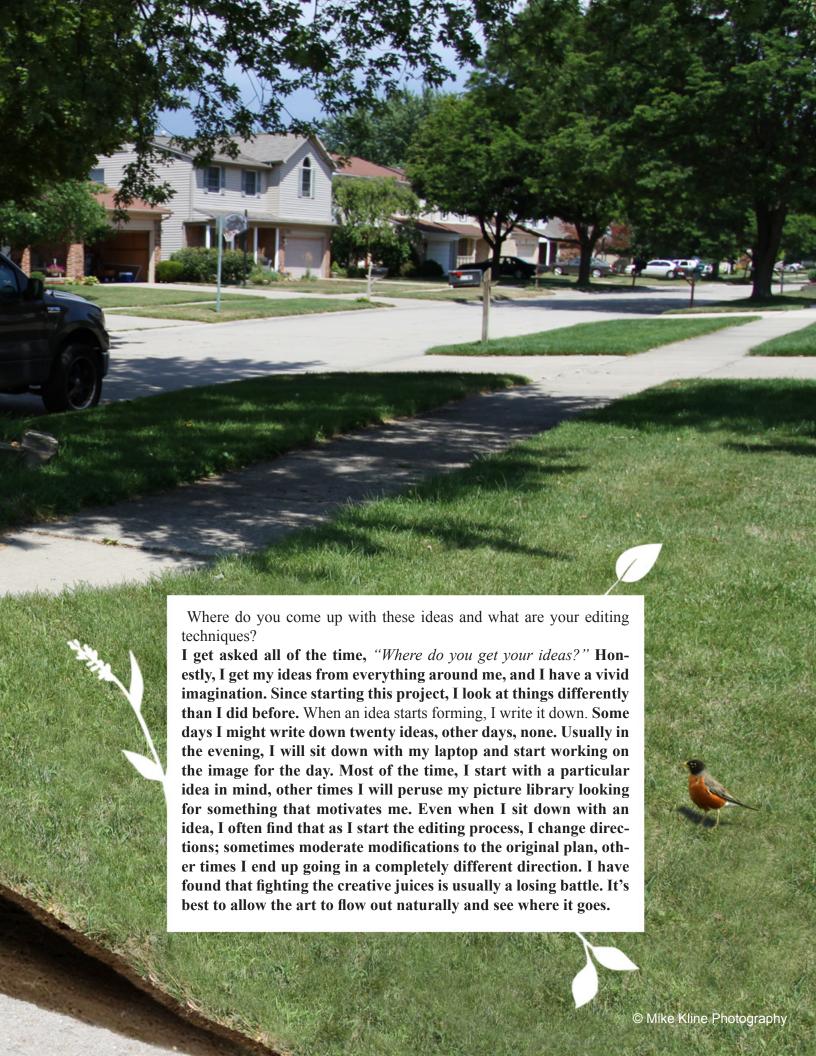
Early in 2012, I decided to start a 365 Project, a picture a day, with each picture being digitally manipulated. The motivation behind this decision was job driven. I have a marketing degree, worked various office jobs at Ford Motor Company for 15 years, and have owned a home inspection business for the last six years, but I want to work in Graphic Design / Advertising. Without a degree or experience in those fields, I thought if I did this project, and really applied myself, I would end up with a decent portfolio to showcase some of my ability. I plan on taking the images from the project and putting them into book form which I can then use as a resumé of sorts.













Ralph Nardell the forest for the trees

Hi! I'm Ralph and I live and work in Media, PA, a small town about 25 minutes west of Philadelphia. Photography has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My first camera was a Kodak 110 with the flip flash that smelled of burning bulbs after they were fired. I don't have any formal training in photography, but have always been so drawn to it that I immersed myself in it in one way or another. Over the years I've learned mostly from my friends, books, and countless hours of trial and error. I'm rarely without a camera of some sort, and if I had to pick a favorite subject I'd say it's a tie between nature photography and street photography. Mostly, I love how a still image can evoke the memory or emotion of a larger story. I love photography for how it helps me pay attention to life as it passes.







Tree porn right? How do you manage to make all your forest imagery look like a snippet from a dream? Ha, yes to tree porn!.;) And thanks for "...a snippet from a dream" - such a kind description. First, in case I haven't said it out loud today, I love trees. I can wander the forest for hours by myself and feel perfectly at home. I love the quiet, the timelessness, the little worlds within - I have endless appreciation for it. I find myself drawn to expressing that feeling visually in one or two main ways: 1. By showing the grand point of view - huge, ancient trees slowly growing into one another, vast landscapes, etc. Or 2. Photographing the smallest of details which evoke a sense of the larger scene - a single falling leaf, two branches finally meeting, that sort of thing. And of course - sunrise or sunset light does wonders for that dreamlike, glowy feel.





What is the allure of foggy lonely natural places you photograph?

Well I think the secret is out on photographers loving fog - who doesn't, right? I imagine most of my photographer friends would agree that we love how fog lends a sense of mystery and atmosphere to a scene, not to mention beautifully diffuse light. Beyond that though, I love how it hides and reveals at once. Well, I guess all of photography is doing that in a sense. To point your camera at one thing means you're leaving out everything else; showing one frame of a story means leaving out another. Fog and mist does that same thing within one image - it lets you suggest something instead of show it completely, and I think doing that emphasizes the emotion of a scene rather than its literal truth. It helps you see the world romantically (not as in LOVE but romantically as in not literal) and that, for me, fits well with how I experience the world. People tell me often that my nature photos evoke a sense of solitude and I take that as a compliment. I love that viewers make up their own mind about what a photograph says to them, but if asked I wouldn't use the word 'lonely'. Thankfully that is not a feeling I experience often. A sense of solitude though? Yes.















What is your favorite thing to photograph and why?

I honestly love to photograph everything! I hadn't planned in the beginning to get into wedding photography, and I am so thankful I did because they have become my favorites of client work! I so strongly feel moved at every wedding. I love all the details, the bride and groom portraits, all the candid images, and the emotions! Outside of client work I love photographing my son Isaiah who is now almost 2 1/2, so full of life and wonder. Luckily enough he loves taking photos too, and he has photographed some stunning toy truck photos. I also greatly enjoy macro details in nature, they are so intricate and mysteriously beautiful. But some of the most rewarding and my personal favorite photos, are my conceptual self portraits. It is almost therapeutic when I create an image. I use a lot of my own emotions, dreams, and personal experiences when creating and photographing them. When others are moved in the same or even a different way, it really inspires me to continue!

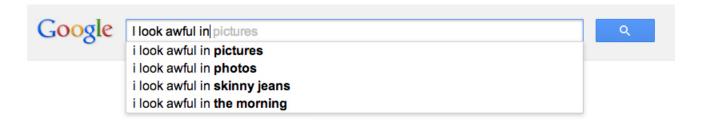




"IF MY THOUGHT-DREAMS COULD BE SEEN,
THEY'D PROBABLY PUT MY HEAD IN A GUILLOTINE.
BUT IT'S ALRIGHT MA, IT'S LIFE AND LIFE ONLY."
-BOB DYLAN

HEY, I JUST TOOK YOUR PICTURE. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

by Mick Orlosky



Your answer to that question, as an average participant in our social world, has evolved very rapidly over the past couple of decades. And, the way that evolution seems to be going is a little surprising in some ways. And, as photographers I think we should ask ourselves some questions.

According to some estimates, there will be anywhere from **three to six hundred billion** digital photos taken this year. *Is that a lot?* That's only as much as 100 photos of every single living being on Earth. Hey, that's a good weekend for some of the folks on my Instagram feed. But, kidding aside, we know that there are vastly more photos being taken now than at any time in history.

So, when you think of it that way, people should pretty much be over it, shouldn't they? I just took your picture should be no big deal, *right*?

It seems to me that people as a whole are getting more picky about how they look in photographs. Does it seem that way to you? On the one hand, people should be more used to having their picture taken now than at any other time in history. But, along with that any given picture can now be seen by **millions of people** — something that is only a recent development. So, folks have developed a sense that they need to look their best.

Except, is it more than that? Do people want to look their best, or do they want to look better than their best? Do they have unrealistic self-images? Or is it that people are now so disconnected from normal reality that just being who they are is unacceptable? Do people feel that everyone around them is a glamorous star and that their own humble appearance doesn't measure up? Warhol gave everyone fifteen minutes of fame, but in a world of scripted reality, what is normal that is not celebrity? Is it that people can't bear ordinary reality because every minute of their lives is flooded with unreal images?

More and more often, when I take a picture of friends or family during some time I want to remember, I hear something like "*Great picture. Too bad I look terrible.*" And, as a photographer this saddens and infuriates me at the same time. I wonder about this: **Do we really think we look terrible in photographs?** Or, is the problem that we look normal, and that's just not good enough anymore? Has it always been this way? Is it getting worse?

And then, if you have the answers to those questions, I ask: What role do we have as photographers in these perceptions? Do we have an effect on the self-image of our subjects with the choices we make behind the lens? I don't know the answers, but I think it's a discussion worth having.

