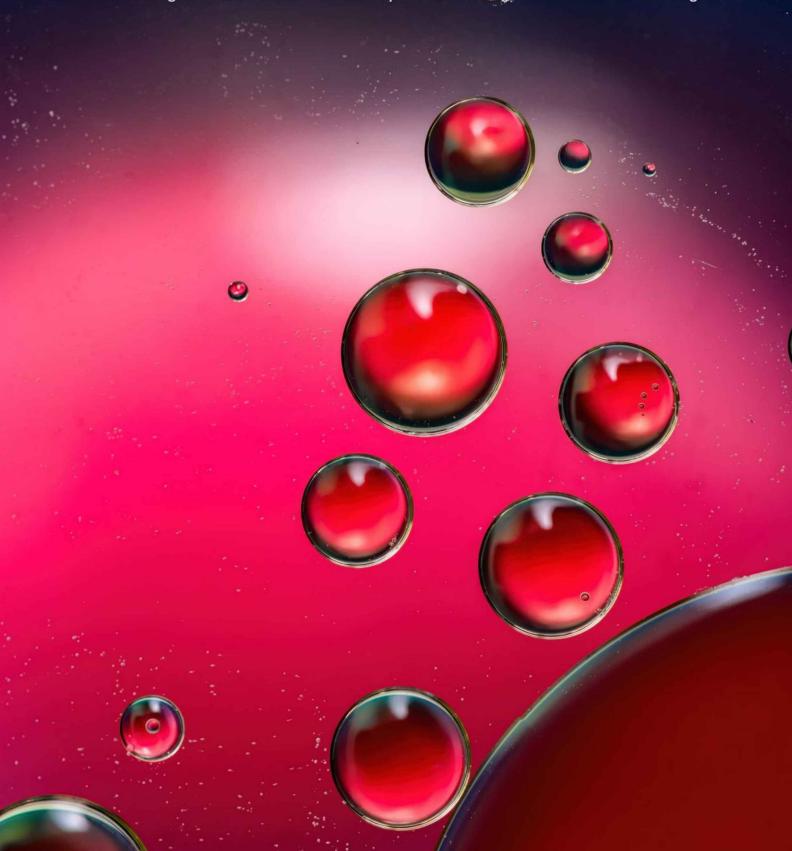
PHETOGRAPHY

Student Images From The University of Washington Certificate Program





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Introduction

Photography is the world's most popular medium for recording what we see and experience. Each day, billions of snapshots are posted online, but a true photographer artfully captures a more informed and intentional vision. Their work is a creative alchemy of composition, light, time, sensitivity and imagination. It is work carefully crafted by human interaction, and not derived from the intangible universe of Al.

The UW Certificate in Photography course offers a broad exposure to a variety of technical and creative directions in the art form. While some students began the course with some photography experience, others were completely new to their camera. With fundamentals taught in Fall quarter, students then moved on in Winter to more experimental work, pushing their abilities through a series of progressively challenging conceptual and technical assignments. Additional inspiration and knowledge was gained through podcasts, videos and distinguished guest photographers who joined us online.

In Spring quarter, each student was challenged to propose and develop a themed six-image series that would provide new opportunities to express themselves through photography. The primary requirement was to use a camera, light and time as a medium of inquiry, experimentation and storytelling through visual narratives. As this book's cover image illustrates, an artist can experiment and create visual magic from what is at hand, without the use of software algorythms and simulated realities.

This book showcases each student's self-proposed project and reveals that they not only met their goals, but that they also grew as more creative individuals during our 30-week course. The resulting work clearly celebrates vastly diverse ideas and approaches to the medium of photography. We're very proud of this collection, and of the artists whose passions and hard work make it shine.

David Julian, Instructor



Luis Alducin

Fashion Dogtography

About this work

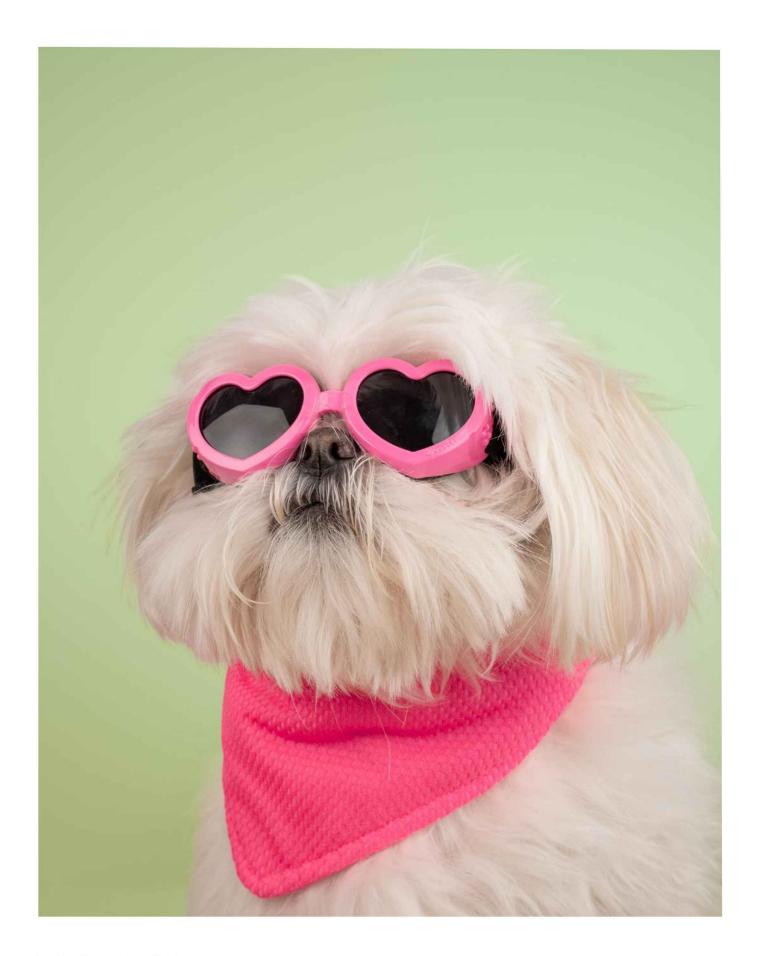
Seeing a portrait of your pup is nice, but seeing them as a fashion icon is unforgettable.

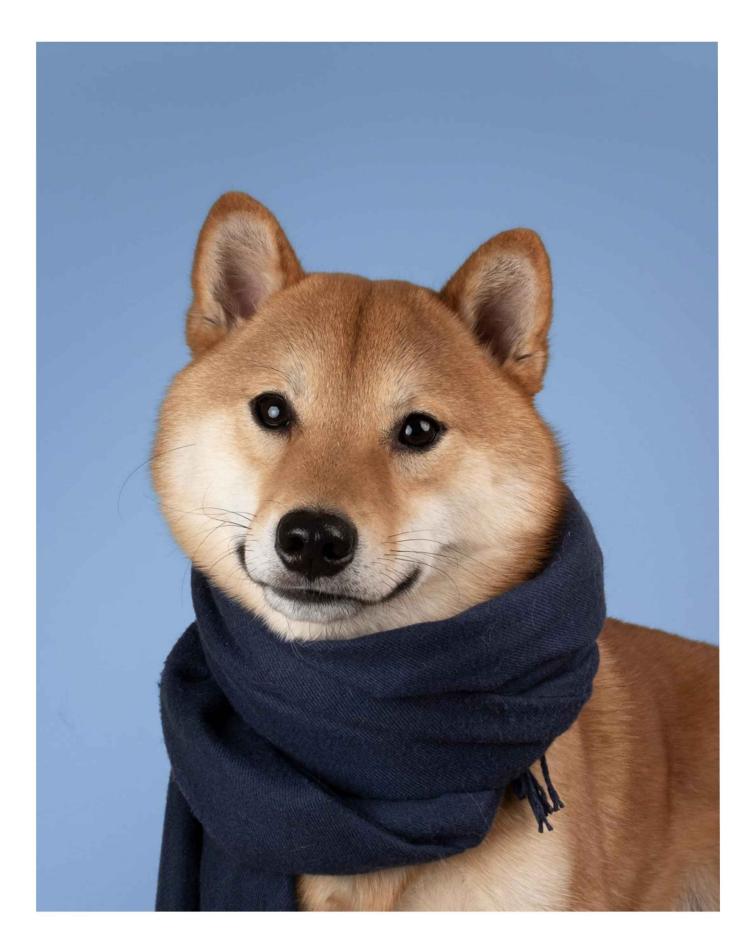
My vision with this series of photos is to show an unseen side of our furry friends through fashionable clothing, posing, and a bunch of treats..

About the artist

Born in Mexico City and now making his mark in Seattle, Luis Alducin transforms the often overlooked nuances of urban life into compelling narratives through his focused street photography. Luis looks forward to exploring various dimensions of photography, like the glamorous sphere of fashion, in his ongoing artistic journey.



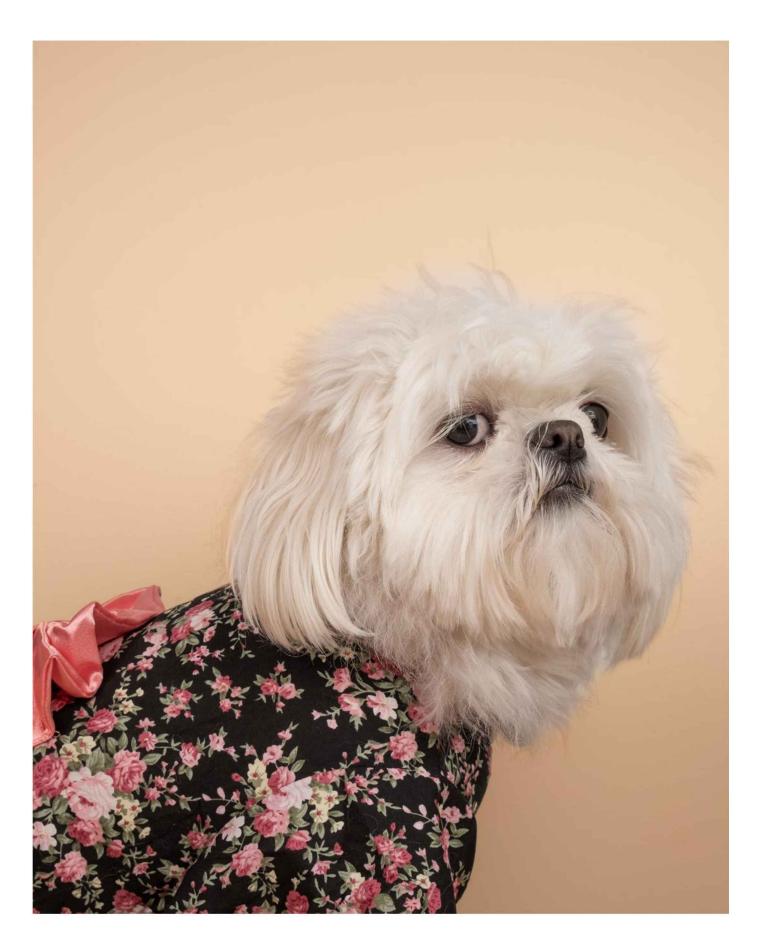




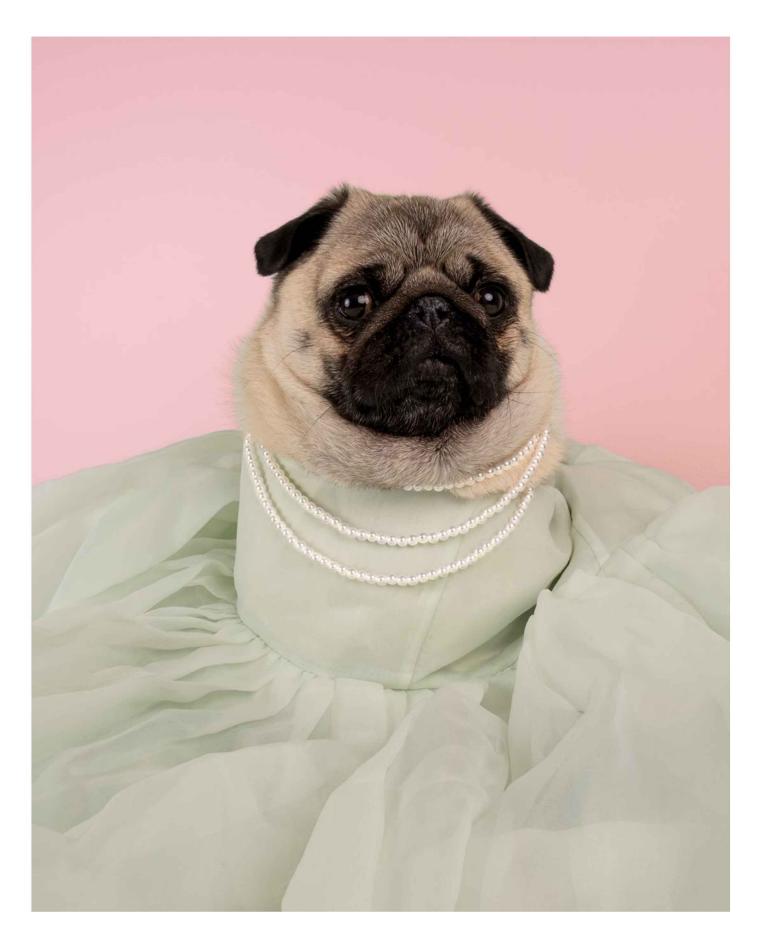
Hoku: Elegance in Sapphire



Sunshine: Pink Tulle Ballet



Sunshine: Rose Noir Kimono



Rasan Bakir

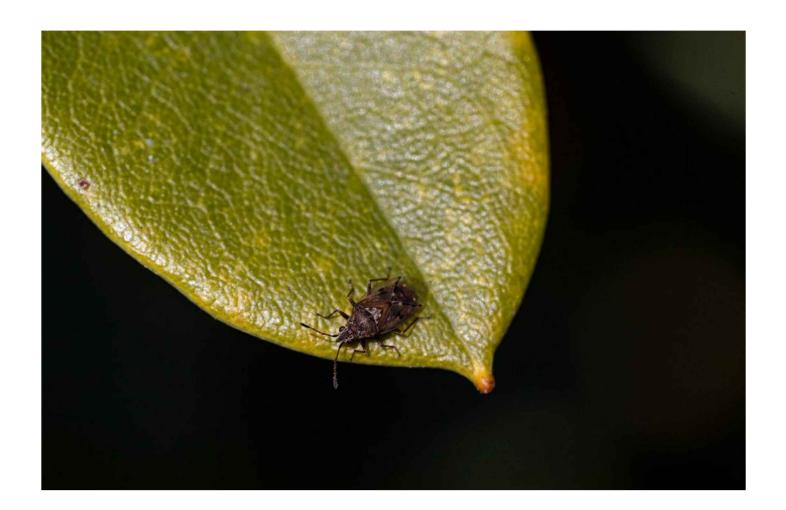
Nature's Tiny Wonders

About this work

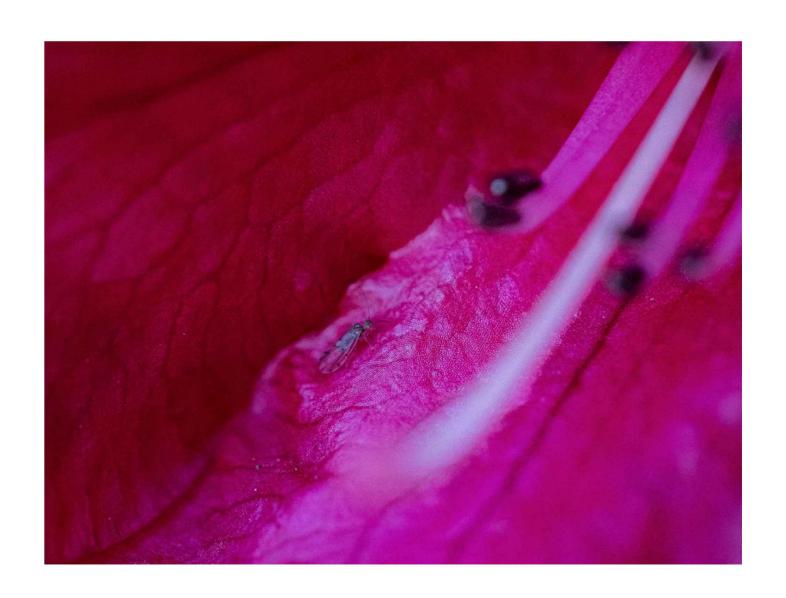
This project has been absolutely wonderful to work on over these past weeks. My favorite feeling is seeing something just out of the corner of my eye that's almost impossible to see and being able to capture it with my macro lens. My photography overall has tremendously improved because I've really enjoyed what I've shot for this project which is, insects. Insects are what make up the most basic parts of nature and what help it come to fruition; with that being said here are the photos that I am extremely proud to present for the spring quarter!

About the artist

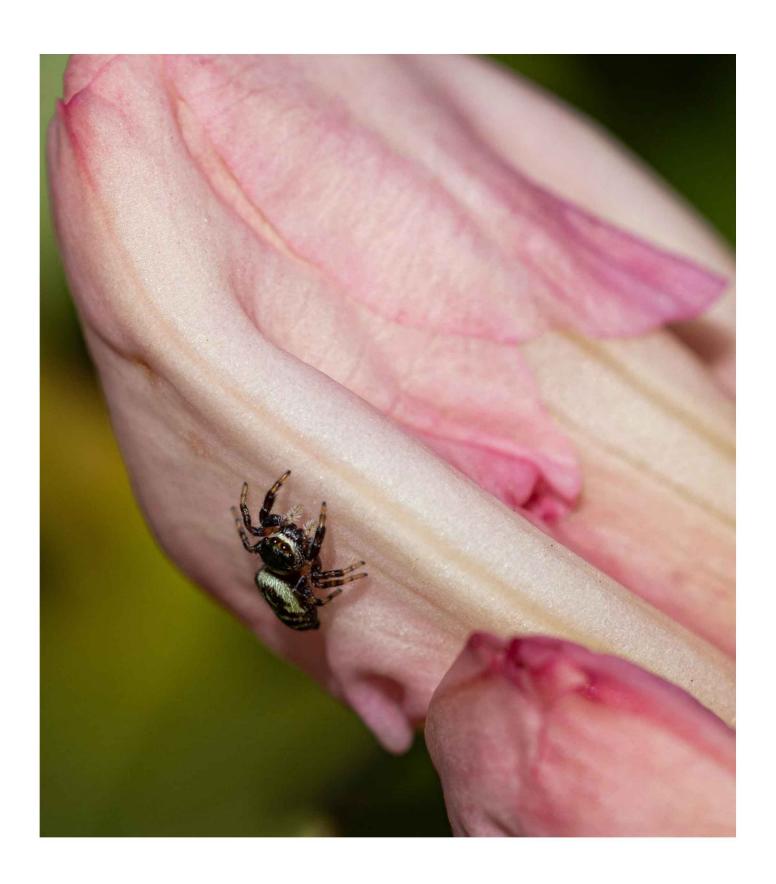
Growing up as a kid in Iraq, I was constantly outside playing with friends, but there was unfortunately not much nature to pay attention to. After moving to the US at age 6, I was exposed to a whole new world. When going outside, I would still play with friends, but I also found myself playing in the once unknown nature. I was out looking at birds, insects, flowers, everything; it was extraordinary. As I got my first camera, I started to capture everything that I saw. All of the graceful birds; the tiniest of insects, and the most elegant flowers. I was able to show others the beauty of the nature that I saw. I look forward to continue capturing all of the amazing nature that I will see throughout my photography career.













Uele Nayo Boxill

Urban Adventures

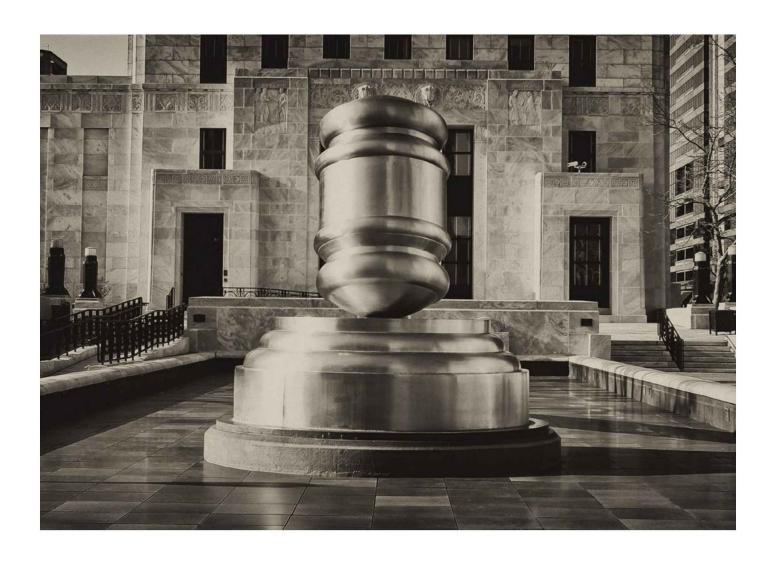
About this work

Every day can bring adventure, especially in the realm of street photography. Throughout this project, I adventured through the city streets of Columbus and sought out urban wonders of all kinds. What some people would pass by without a second look, I would stop and study, taking in all the particulars of each subject. Each adventure taught a new lesson that will stay with me as I continue my many photography expeditions.

About the artist

I am a writer, photographer, and peer recovery supporter who is passionate about storytelling. I see myself as a seeker—someone on a journey to seek out the unknowns and make them familiar. I capture all subjects with a lens of empathy, understanding, and acceptance. There is no subject that does not inspire me. I hope to discover more in every photograph I capture and every story I tell.













Dave Carulli

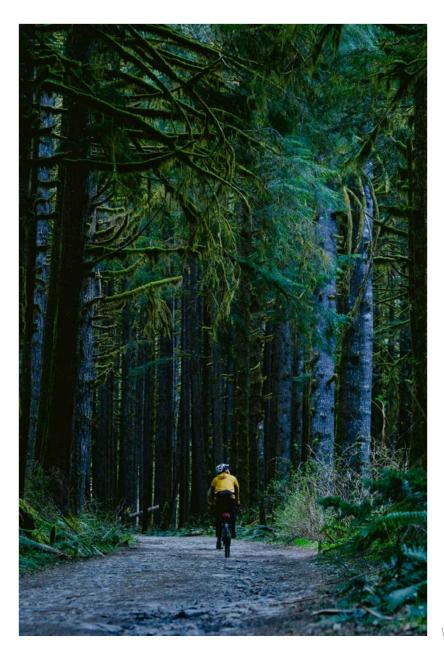
Bikepacking Cascadia

About this work

Bikepacking Cascadia visually conveys the feeling of bikepacking in the Pacific Northwest. Photographing myself, I hope to show why pedaling a heavy, fully loaded bike long distances and over great elevation changes is worth the physical toll. I found meditative solitude in Washington's incredibly diverse landscapes and made memories that will last a lifetime, biking nearly 300 miles to complete the project.

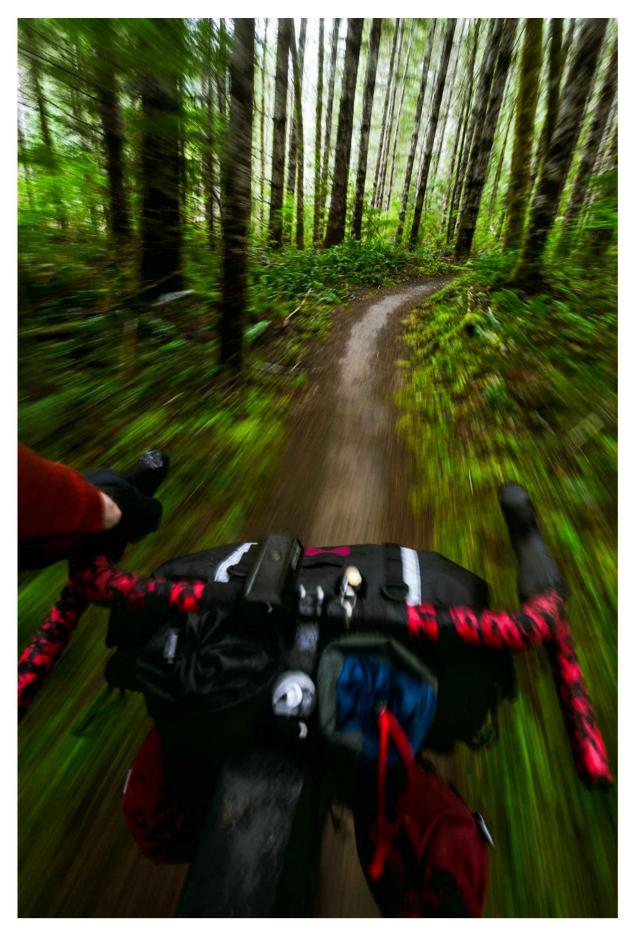
About the artist

Dave Carulli's interest in photography began in a college black and white film photography class. After starting with skateboarding, he now weaves photography into all of his evolving interests, which includes cycling of all kinds. Born in and molded by the Rust Belt, he now lives in the Pacific Northwest, often finding respite in the mountains when possible. He considers photography his favorite component of personal storytelling and something that helps him find meaning in everyday life.



What comes after the blues











Carrie Cassidy

White

About this work

I set out to photograph white and, in doing so, convey a sense of freshness, lightness, and levity. In my mind white is like a blank canvas waiting for a creation and to be enlivened with color. What I found in the process of photographing white was also color, everywhere. Subtle, rich, stunning color was sneaking into every image. And so, while I set out with an idea of white and ended up with color, the sense of freshness and levity I was looking for was still achieved; the journey felt like the rebirth of spring.

About the artist

Carrie is constantly striving to strike a balance between her left brain and right brain, having a long and successful career in construction while pursuing creative projects in her free time. She can often be spotted walking a construction site with a camera in hand. In addition to photography she loves watercolor journaling, encaustic painting, knitting, and working on her house. Carrie's inspiration comes from the beauty in everyday life and the world around her.

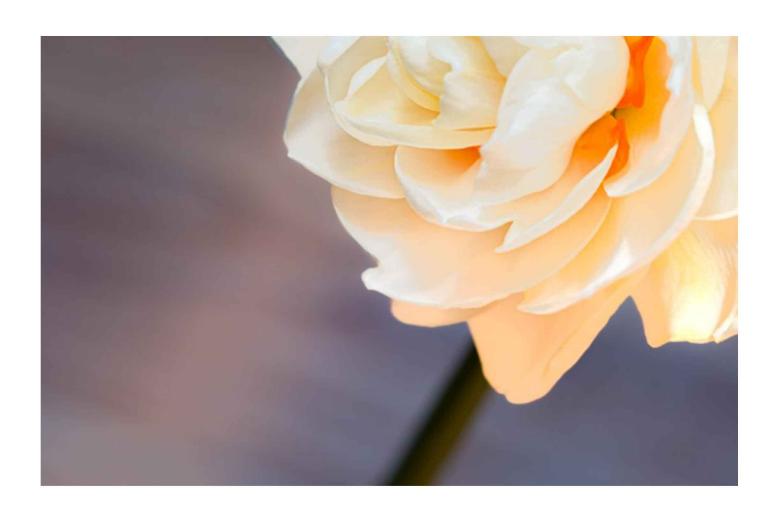












Amanda Alejandra Castillo Ontiveros

In The Grip of Anxiety

About this work

After two hospitalizations due to panic attacks, I discovered that what I had been experiencing since childhood was anxiety. This project aims to showcase the unpredictable and overwhelming nature of anxiety through striking visuals depicting symptoms and emotions.

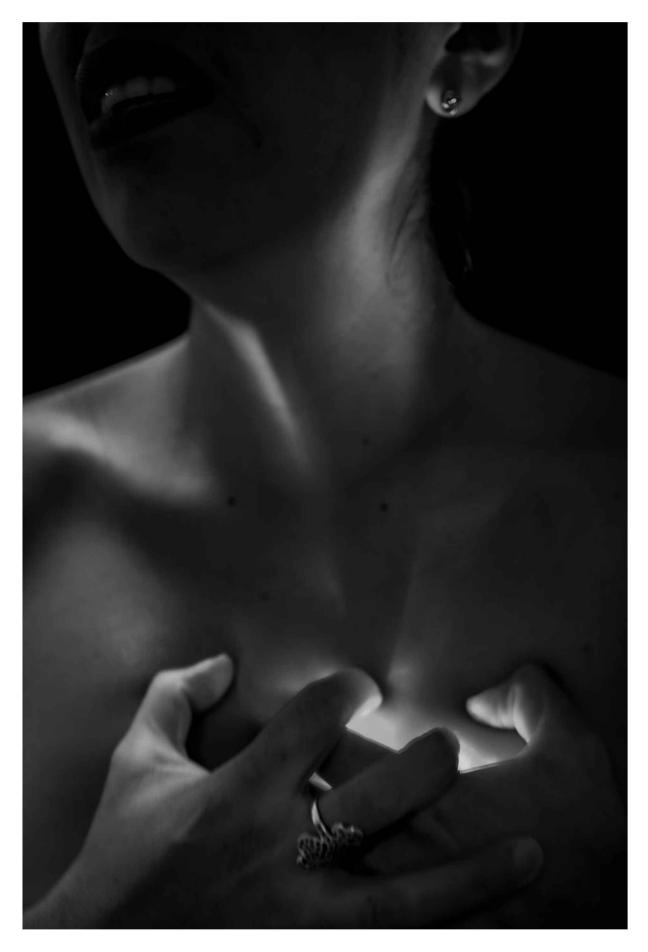
Through the process of creating these images, I have been able to confront and process my own experiences, and it has been an important part of my own healing journey. By sharing this work, I hope to raise awareness and promote empathy for those who struggle with anxiety and panic attacks.

About the artist

All my life I've been rigid in my education, behavior and self-perception, leaving no room to explore art. During the pandemic, photography entered my life as an exploration of an uncharted artistic side. I find inspiration in the simplicity of everyday life, and my passion lies in fine art photography where I aim to capture the beauty of the ordinary in captivating way. Through the lens, photography unlocked my creativity, offering solace and liberation.











Tingling



Caitlin Custer

Study in Sycamores

About this work

I've always had a soft spot for sycamore trees. With this project, I explored the details of sycamores—their habitats, massive trunks, bendy branches, mottled bark, and glowing uppers. I hope you'll find their character as intriguing as I do. Throughout the course of the work, these trees often reminded me of my late grandfather, so I've titled the images with phrases that describe them both..



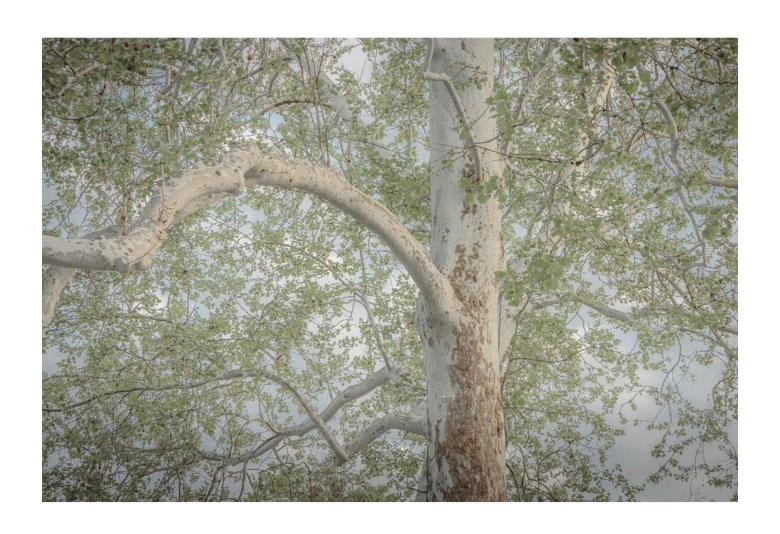
About the artist

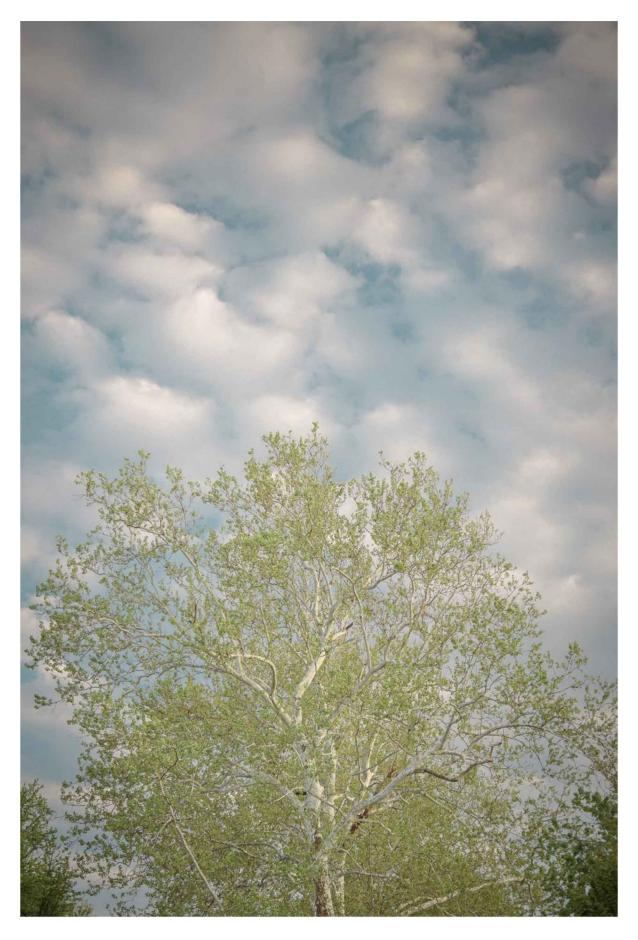
Caitlin Custer focuses on bringing a sense of presence and stillness to her work.

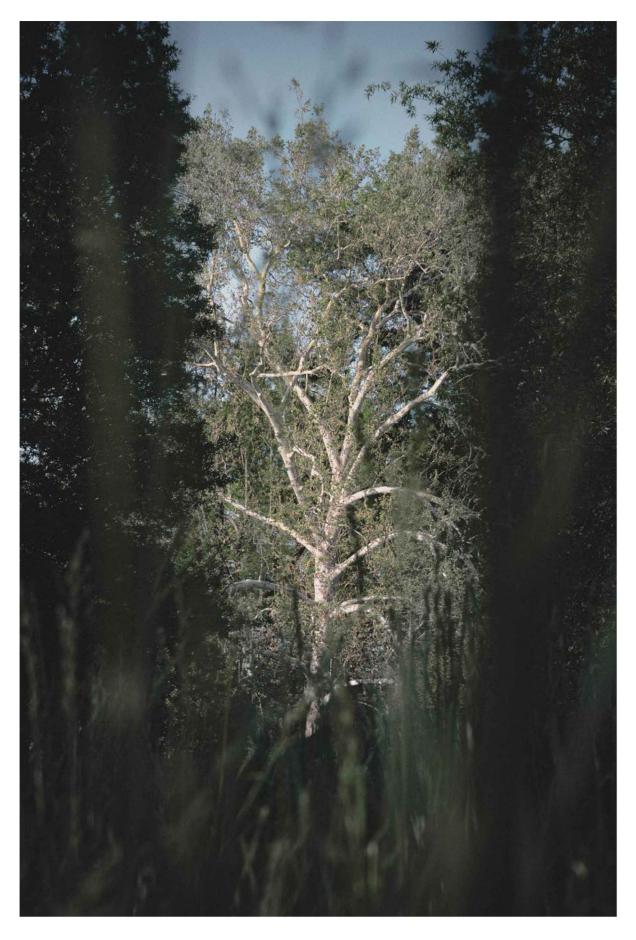
A Midwest native, she grew up playing in—and still loves to explore—creeks, forests, and open fields. Sharing landscape scenes like these is a fundamental part of her photography practice, reminding us to go play outside. When indoors, she draws on her musical training to work with arts organizations as a storyteller and content creator.











Mark Favero

Solitude: Exploring Lonelinesss

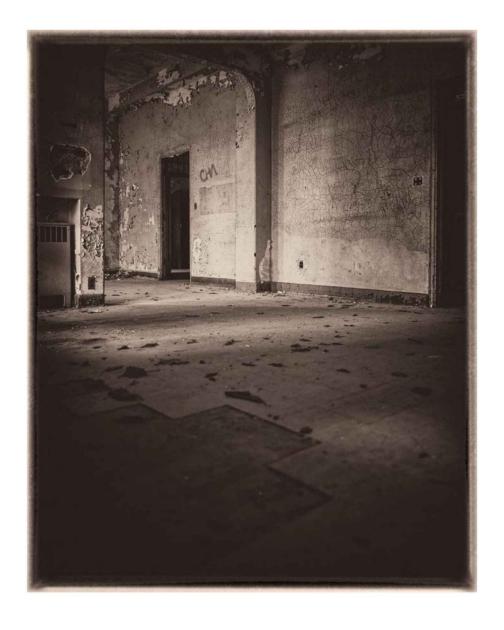
About this work

I ventured into the themes of Loneliness, Isolation, confusion, and the associated fear. Originally inspired by smoked meats, I realized my true passion lay in capturing emotions on a deeper level. Exploring the Northern State Hospital with a class group, I found a haunting atmosphere that resonated with my vision. Through three visits, I captured images that conveyed profound emptiness, confusion, and underlying fear. Each photograph invites contemplation of human emotions and solitude.

About the artist

I'm Mark Favero, a photographer pushing visual storytelling's boundaries, capturing the world's essence in extraordinary ways.

I seek new perspectives, unconventional techniques, and uncharted territories by delving into hidden corners and exposing intricate details, inviting viewers to see the world through a fresh lens, questioning perceptions, and discovering new dimensions of beauty.





Dizziness







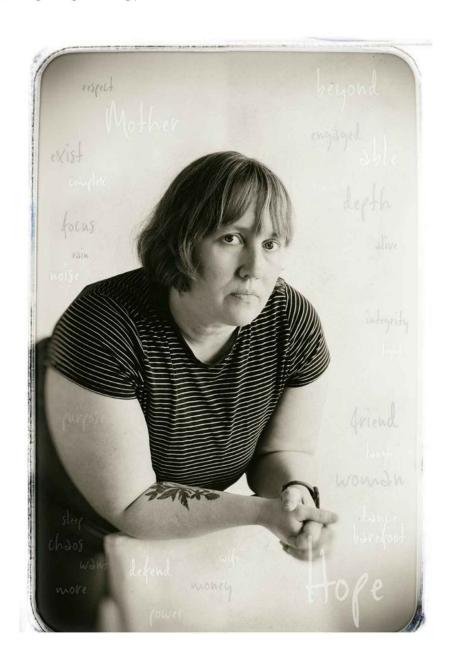


Sarah Hague

Lineage

About this work

This six image body of work shows graceful portraits of working mothers who have young children at home while maintaining a working career. Through careful conversation, laughter and vulnerability I was able to connect to each woman to capture how each feel about the successes and challenges of working while providing a stable home environment for their children. I feel honored these women shared their valuable time with me, and feel lucky to have witnessed such integrity and perseverance. Through their expressions and personal choice of words, I hope you will find messages of feeling brave, having hope, gaining balance, feeling strong and being proud to be a woman.

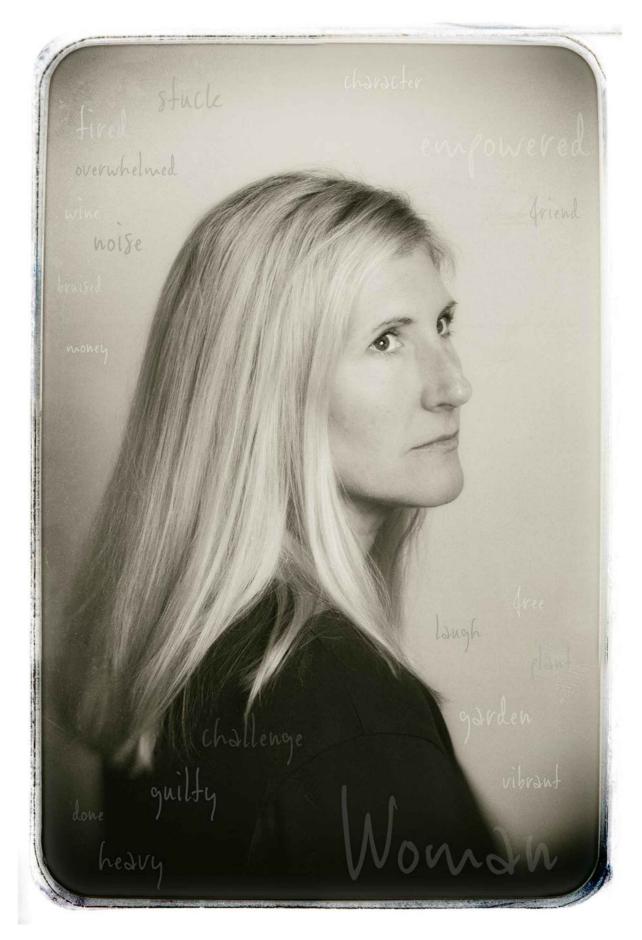


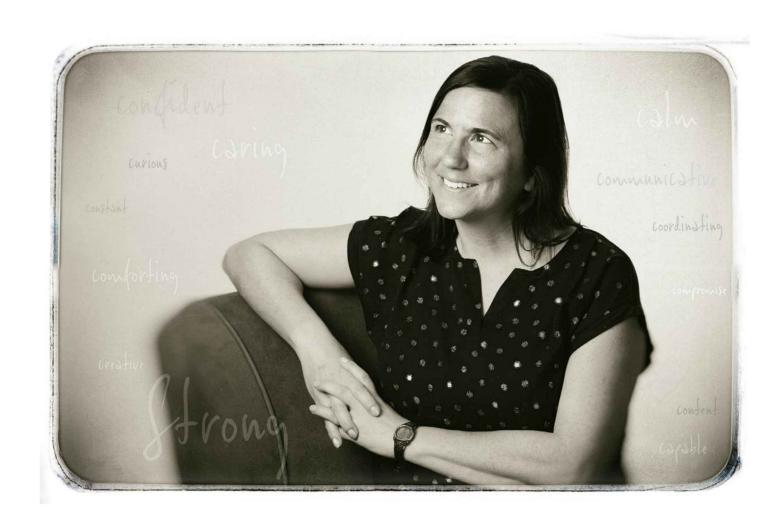
About the artist

There is nothing that brings me greater joy than to make photographs that hang on the walls and in the minds of loved ones, friends or strangers. Through my thoughtful process of connection and conversation with my subjects, I am able to create images that are beautiful moments of truth and beauty. Wether I am photographing babies, children, families or pets, I find the depth and purpose behind the moment and capture it. I look to create more bodies of work around a single subject, and to show my own depth and purpose through these.











Micah Jardine

On The Trail

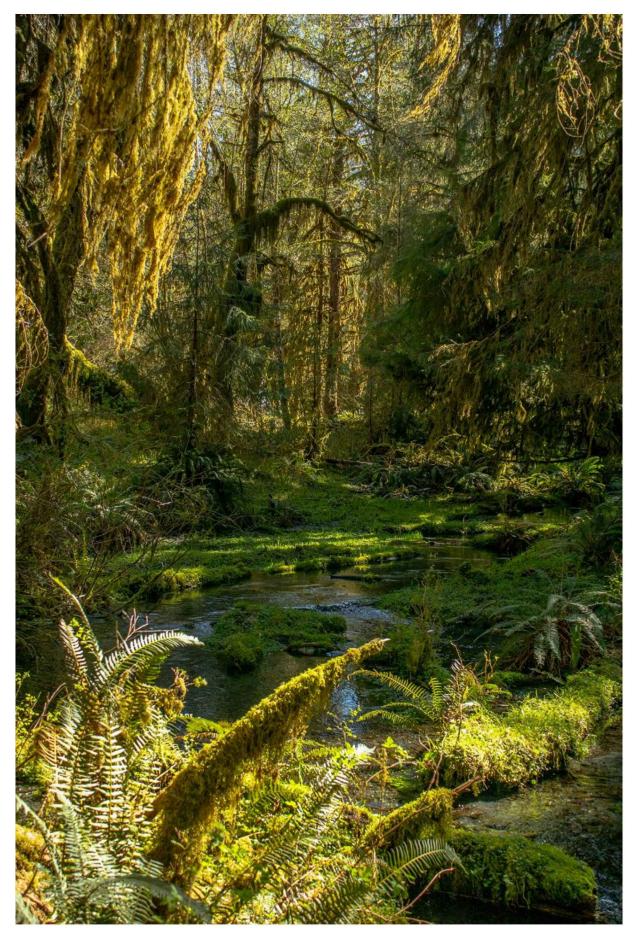
About this work

The endeavor of this project was to try my hand at travel photography, but it grew into something far more personal. The original goal was to create a series of images that would hold an objective beauty of the locations, to potentially inspire any viewers who saw them to go there. But beauty in its truest sense, is not objective. So, I began to shoot for what inspired me, what I saw as beautiful, to spark wanderlust in those who would see these images, and put a piece of myself in every photo. At its heart, this project was done in the hopes of inspiring others to go and see beautiful places, to simply go on an adventure and make memories.

About the artist

My interest in photography began in Germany with the new and beautiful architectures, landscapes and artists that are so stapled into their culture and history, which "awoke" the love for art that i have now. This love of photography has carried me into learning how to shoot and develop film in college, to stretch into portrait, event, and truly find my love and home within landscape photography.



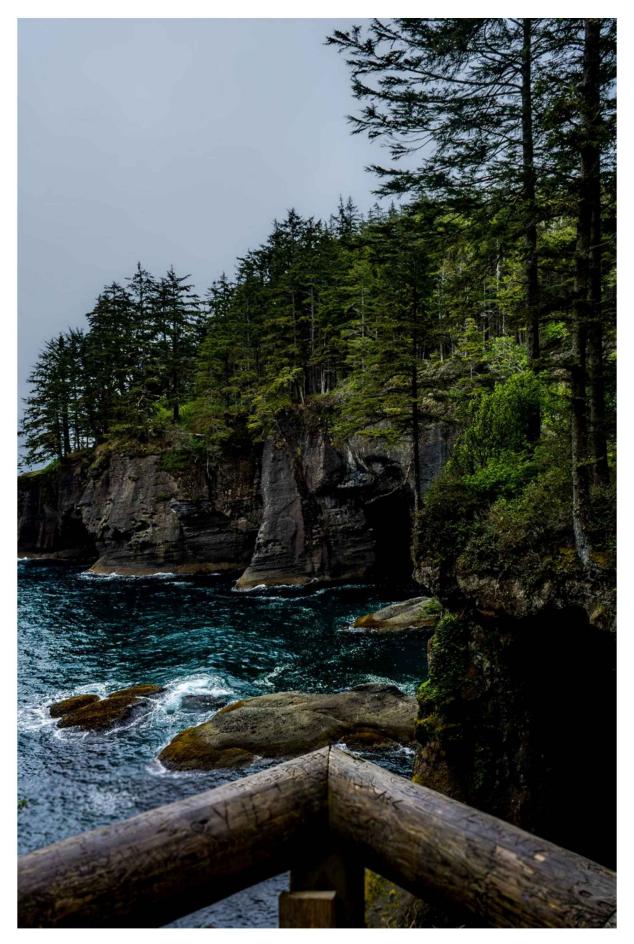


Hoh Rainforest 1









Jennifer J. Jepson

Les Animaux

About this work

Postpartum Depression (PPD) is a global mental health issue that is still widely unrecognized and misunderstood. Approximately 1 in 10 women will experience PPD within the year following the birth of their baby. Of those, it is estimated that 50% go unreported and untreated. In rare cases, a new mother will develop Postpartum Psychosis, a very serious form of PPD posing a threat to herself, her infant and even her other children. I suffered PPD with all four of my children and still grieve the time I lost with them in their infancy. It is my hope that the feelings portrayed in these photographs will speak boldly about this condition, and perhaps even reach a fragile new mother who is suffering.

About the artist

When I became a mother of three boys and finally a girl, I saw every moment as an opportunity to stop time by capturing them in a photograph. Through the lens, I felt even more present and connected. My foremost passion is to photograph people-to help them tell their stories, harness their personalities, establish their uniqueness, create memories, strengthen relationships, and even work through grief and pain. I also want to offer awareness and education on various human conditions.













Ella Karcha

INNOCENT

About this work

Innocence; a pure, guileless, or naive person is exactly what these photos feel. The simplicity of a powerful black and white photo. That holds so much power but yet so simple and keeps you in awe

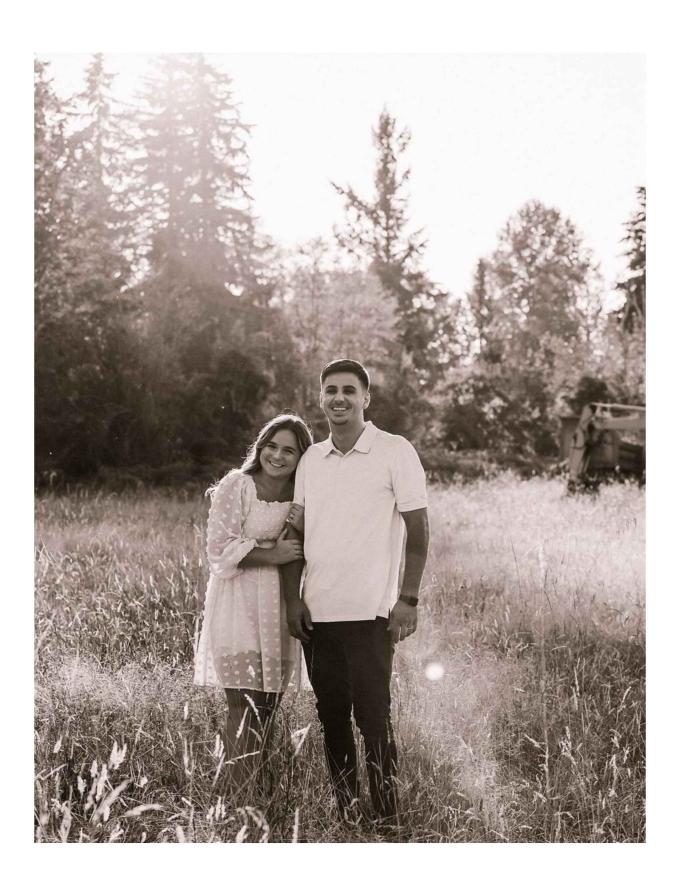
About the artist

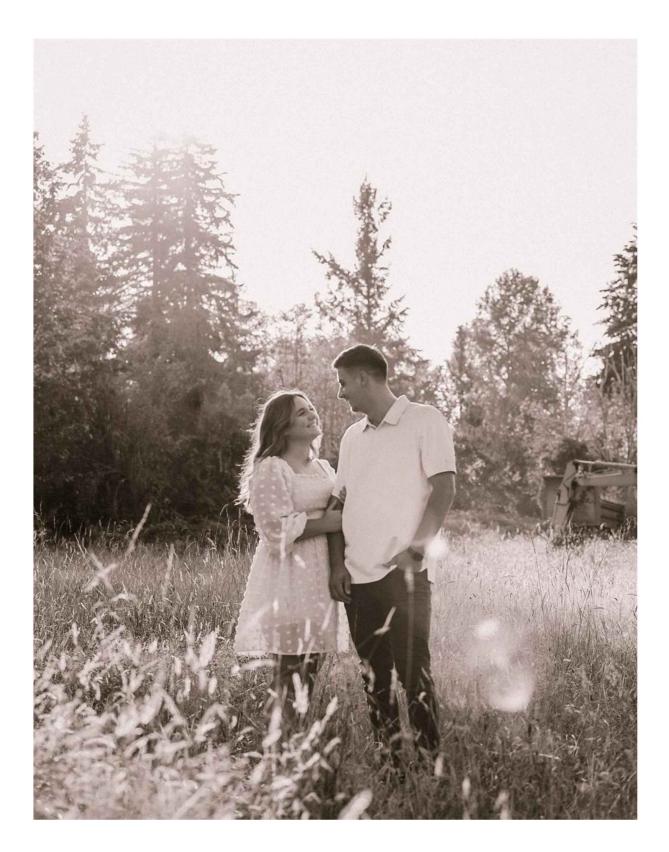
As a kid i found myself the most behind a camera recording as much as i could. Memories were something that always stood out to me. I loved how i could take a picture and tell the story behind it as life goes on. That is why i love capturing amazing moments. As i grew up the passion for photography grew and grew. Now here i am doing what i love.













Michael Lau

Beauty in Colors and Shades

About this work

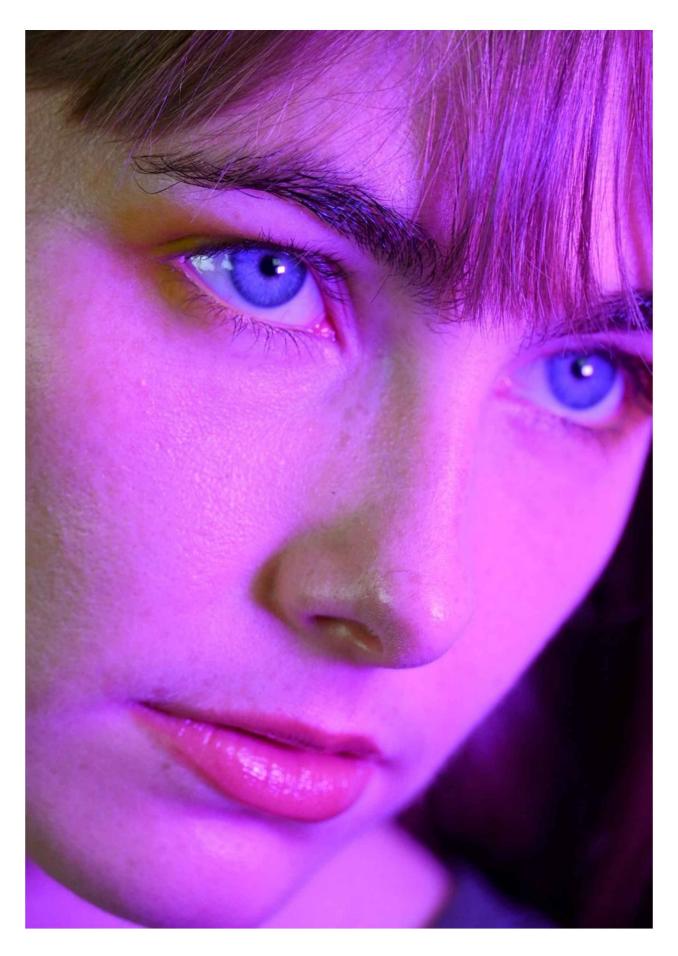
I have celebrated beauty by using creative colors and shades to interpret my model while she was showing different emotions or expressions. Lighting of different colors were used to complement the model's natural colors. It took a while to figure out the interaction between the colors and shades, but I believe I have learned to use those elements well enough to continue my objectives in photography going forward.

About the artist

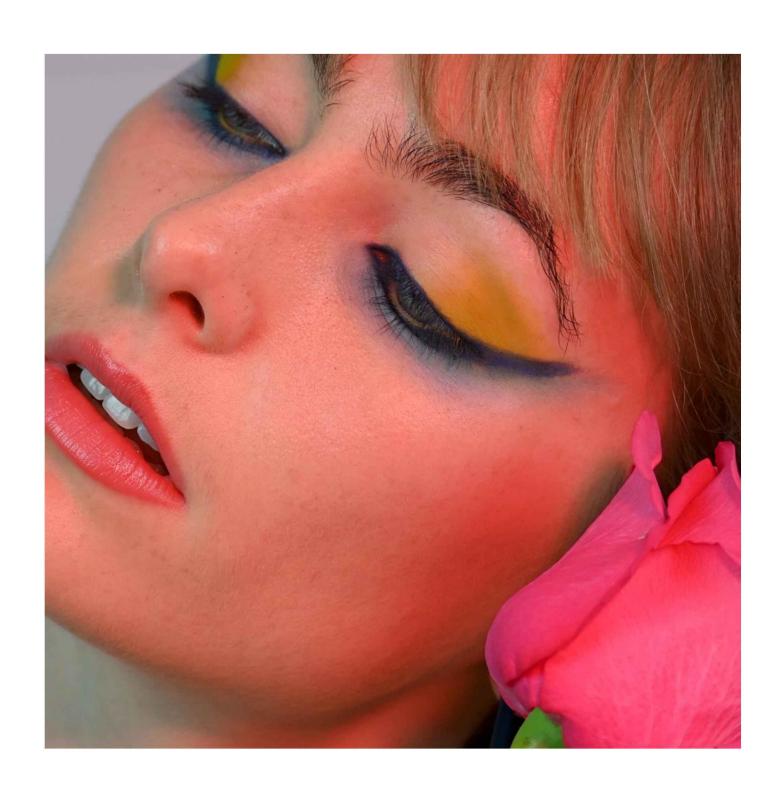
I use photography as an art form, to celebrate the beauty of feminine body. I lens images with intimate composition, utilizing light, colors, and shades, to express artful beauty which could generate emotional impact to the audience. My work in photography complements my professional work in the cosmetic surgery and beauty industry, especially relating to attraction and perception research.

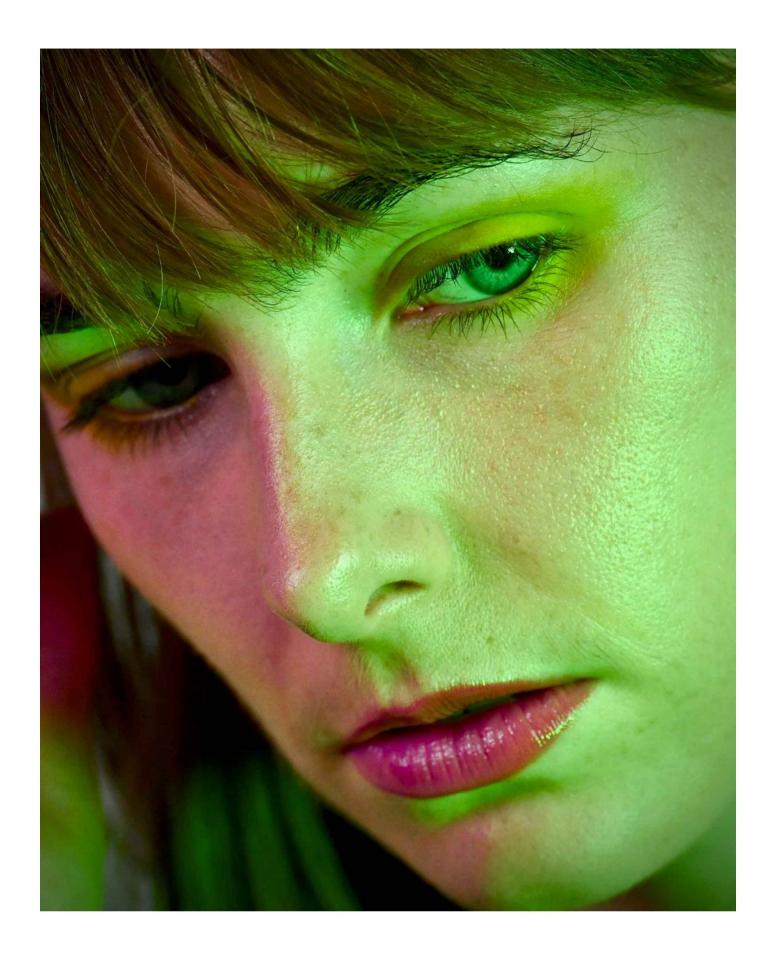












Vahid Mehrin

Macro & Micro Photography

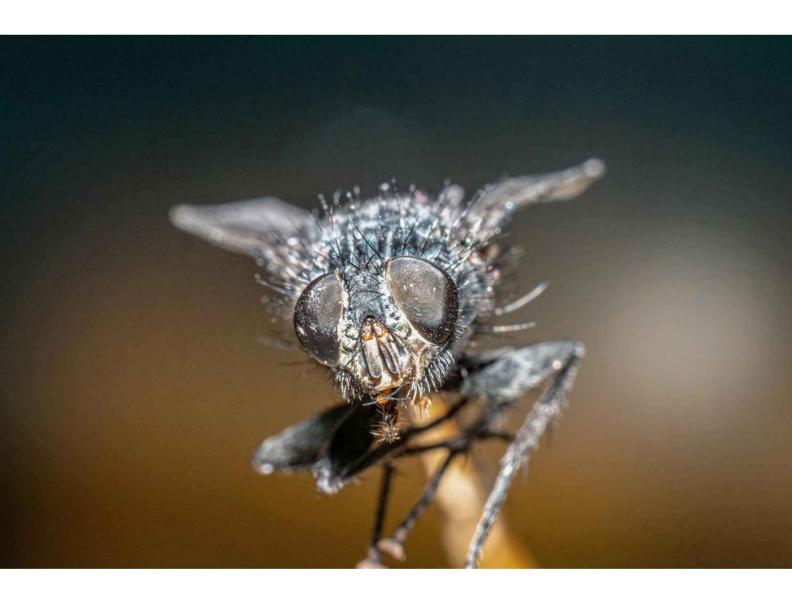
About this work

Macro photography allows me to explore and connect with nature, learn about arthropods' place in our ecosystem, and show people things they may not even realize exist. Macro photography is one of those genres that triggers a lot of curiosity among photographers. I think everyone should shoot macro. The two main points we all will learn from macro photography are mastering the photography basics and developing your patience. So even if you like photographing landscapes, portraits, weddings, larger wildlife, or anything else, you need a lot of patience. And the patience required for macro is transferable to all of those Splurge on this. Also, just mastering the basics; there is no room for error with macro; right things are magnified, and you see every mistake. If you're not making mistakes with macro, you will not make mistakes with the big stuff.



About the artist

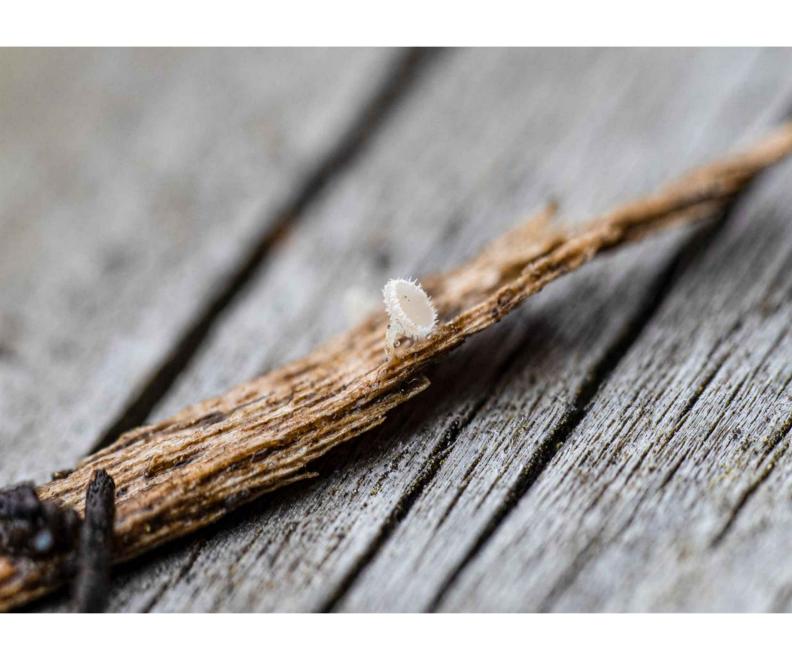
I believe every person has a story worth telling, and I am passionate about giving voice to those stories through my photography. I strive to create beautiful, meaningful images that capture my subjects' essence and convey their unique experiences. The greatest reward is when a viewer connects with an image emotionally: they say they wish they had been there to experience what they see and feel when they view my photographs.









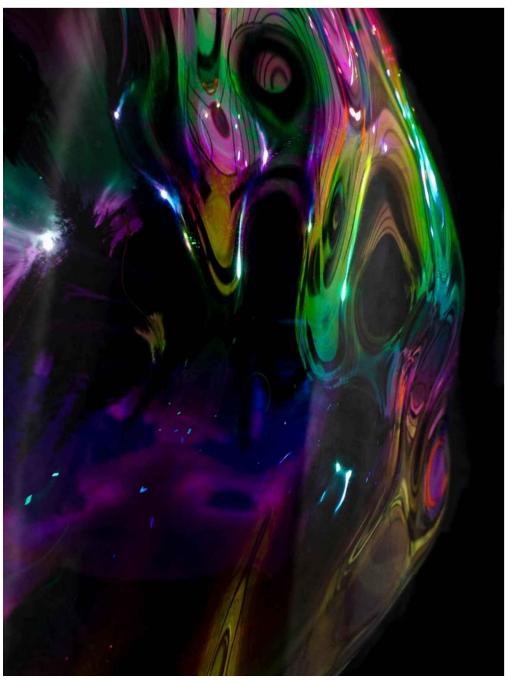


Erica Meske

Soap Film: A study of light and the color spectrum

About this work

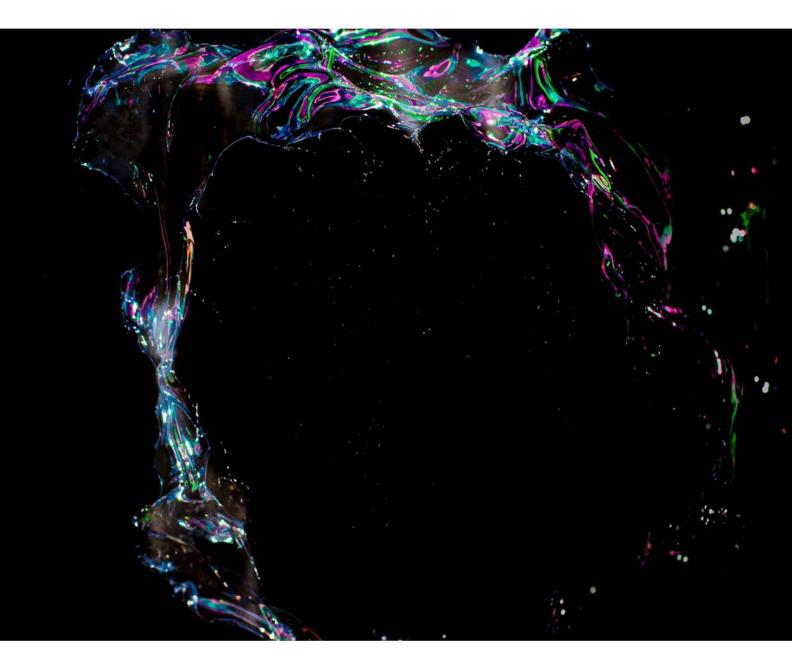
I wanted to capture the beauty and wonder of colors, created through light, reflecting off of the surface of soap films. As an artist, I desired to build a series of abstract photographs that portrayed these rainbow of colors cascading down and rolling throughout each frame. Each shot focuses on composition, color and lighting while capturing a variety of uniquely interesting scenes.

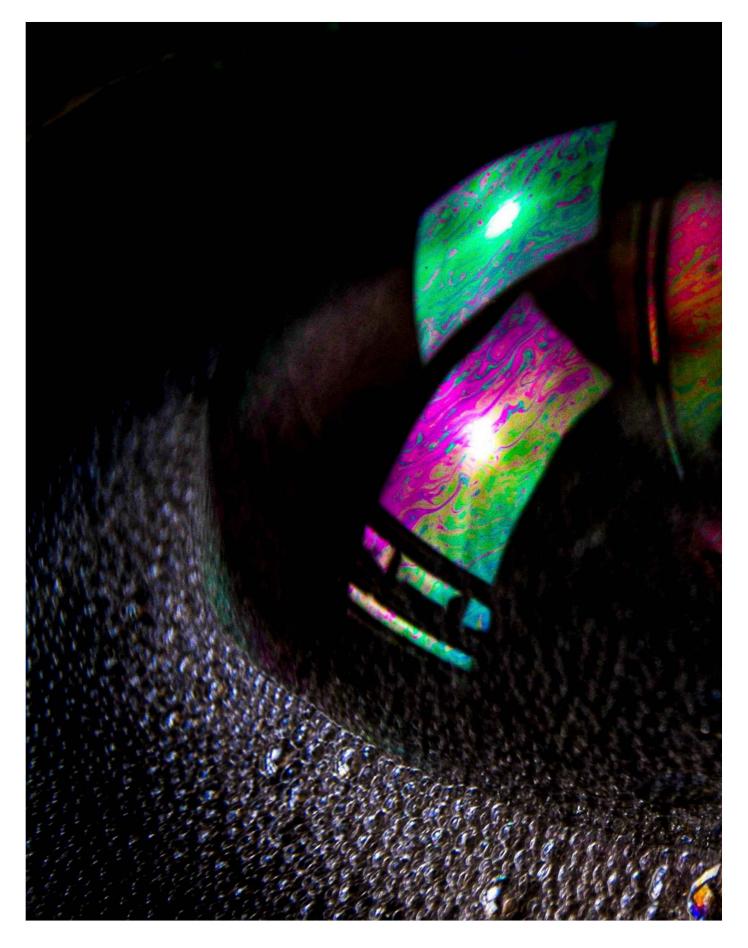


About the artist

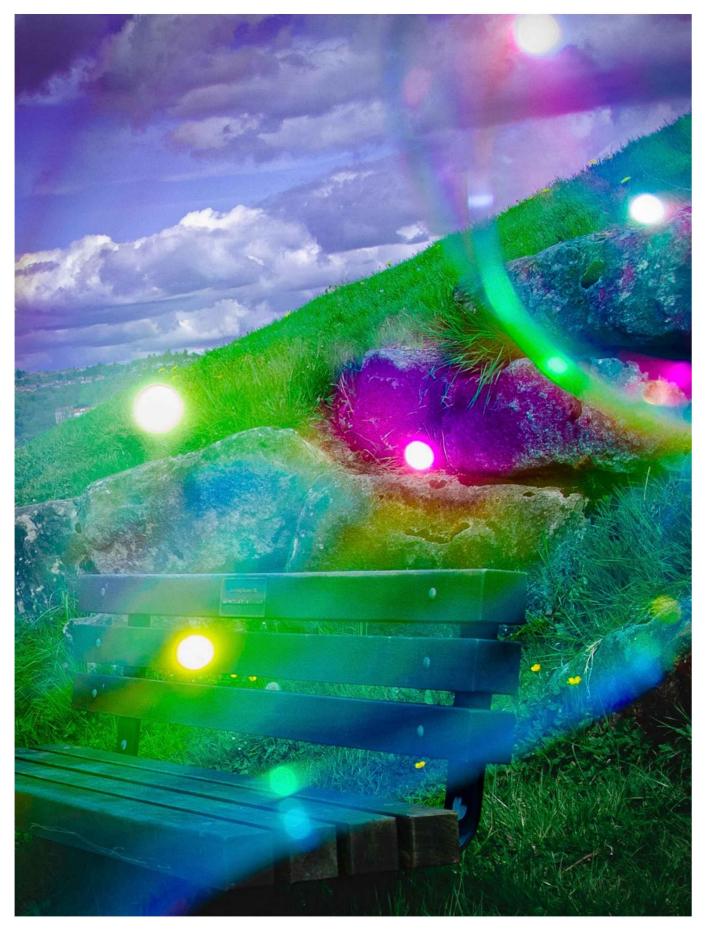
I was first introduced to photography in 2001.

My photography is inspired from years of painting. I am fascinated with composition, shapes and color. I thrive on photo manipulation within the editing process. Many of my images display exaggerated hues and values that play with color theory and silver metallic tones. I love to capture crisp clean lines within shapes and combine them with soft subtle backgrounds. My use of Interestingly cropped subject matter and zoomed in images create an intentional abstract representation of its original form.









Fantasy



Megan Shelfer

Sunshine Through Feathers

About this work

For many, we live life at a fast past and forget to put ourselves and our health first. I put my career first for years, worked long hours, ignored my health, and missed out on some important life moments I couldn't get back. I forgot to take time and reflect on life and how precious and short it can be. Over the last two years,

I learned to take time for myself and re-prioritize what's important to me. LIFE is short; take time to enjoy the little things—there is so much beauty out there.

About the artist

I loved taking pictures with my mom's camera as a little girl. Knowing I can captain the moment and being able to express myself is gratifying. My favorite thing to shoot is landscapes or nature. There is something about being outside, discovering new places right in front of your eyes. It pushes me to explore new places that I might not have discovered. I am currently getting into portraits, and I am excited to help others capture the lives of their kids, family, or friends.













Bryn **Turner**

Abstracts of Oil and Water

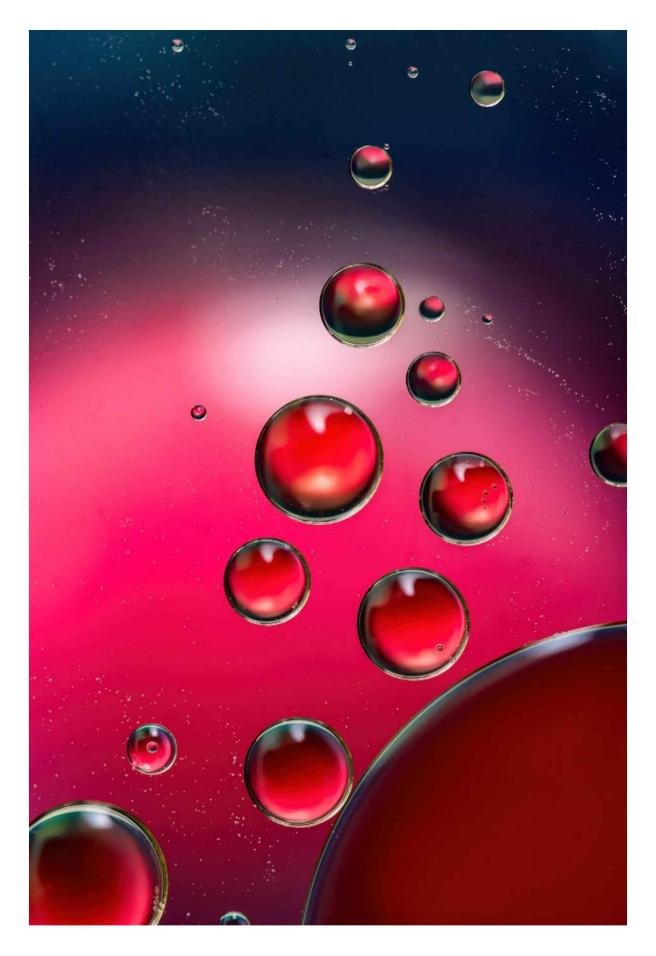
About this work

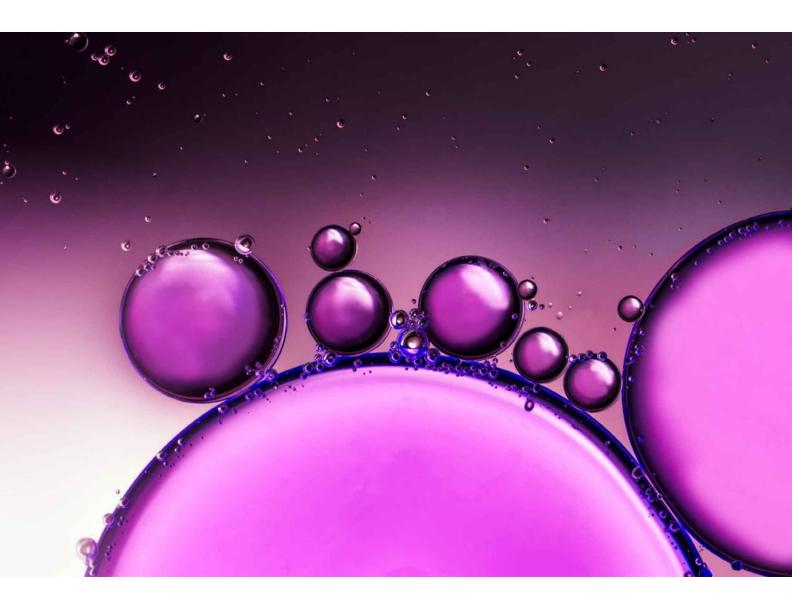
I have alway enjoyed abstract art and the beauty that can be found in the ordinary or unexpected. For this series I set out to capture the intriguing interaction between oil and water and create beautiful images that would captivate the viewer. I greatly enjoyed photographing this series and the fascinating micro environments that these contrasting elements created.













Victoria Westphal

Poetry in Motion

About this work

If this project were a dance performance, it will fall squarely under the category of the interpretive style. My challenge was to throw caution (and control) to the wind and observe how it took off - to photograph how nature's movement around me *felt* rather than looked.

I challenged myself to capture the feel of:

Chaos of a flowered tree in the tumultuous cross wind of the Gorge.

Sway of a magnolia's flower in a soft evening breeze.

Unexpected bursts of commotion as a bird takes flight.

Slippery intertwined rhythms of a school of fish.

And finally, the powerful flow and crash of a river during spring runoff.



About the artist

Victoria Westphal is the unique combination of dreamer and planner. Through her photography she shares her love of the world and the excitement of what might be considered mundane. A communication artist by training, she now steps behind the camera to inspire others to slow down and bear witness to all the amazing things we encounter daily and to share the gratitude of the richness of our lives.











Meet the Artists



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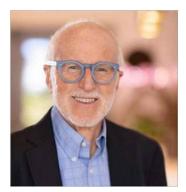


Meet the **Instructors**



Ray Pfortner

Course Instructor, Fall Quarter



© Eva Blanchard

About this work:

I made the breaching orca in 1994 just after I moved to Vashon Island. I purposely set my Nikon to Automatic, so I could concentrate on focus, composition and when to press the shutter. I got 3 shots of one breach out of 8 - and out of over 600 frames.

The orange orca is the same male, Ruffles, taken just before the breach. It has been widely published, including for postcards.

The breaching Ruffles turned out to be one the most important photographs I have ever taken anywhere in the world. It has also been widely published. It has been included in traveling shows about endangered species and the resident orcas of our Salish Sea.

But more importantly, the breaching orca image has helped change Vashon forever. The image was used successfully to lobby our legislature, as evidence in court and to rally Islanders against an enormous gravel pit.

The shot of one Islanders' demonstration against the pit, made from a neighbor's plane, has become a major piece of Island history.

And just this spring the breaching orca gained new life - after 29 years. It was selected as the cover for Vashon's annual magazine, going to all Islanders and visitors far and wide.

When is comes to your photography, never ever take your neighborhood for granted. Photo ops abound. And never let your important photographs languish. Get them out there, never stop to use them to make a difference.

About the artist:

Ray has worked in photography for over 3 decades - as an educator, stock photography agent, book editor, consultant and photographer - in New York, California and Washington State.

He teaches for colleges throughout the NW, including the University of Washington, Bellevue and Seattle Central. He is also an instructor for artist leagues, art centers, libraries and not-for-profits from botanical gardens to historical associations.

His students range from middle schoolers to retirees. Ray's focus is improving camera skills but especially image design, photo styling and the business of art for all art mediums. A primary objective always is sharing art to make a change, especially to the environment and our impact on it, through increased awareness and inspiration.

Ray is a Fellow of the North American Nature Photography Association. His photography is represented by Getty Images. He is a graduate of Yale and the Duke School of the Environment.

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Dave Julian

Course Instructor, Winter and Spring Quarters



Matteo Troncone

About this work

Though most of my travels have been beyond US borders, I bought and renewed a vintage Volkswagen camper during the pandemic for new domestic adventures. I have since made many periodic road trips to immerse into exploring, photography and to find serendipitous discoveries along the way.

I have learned that when on the road, one has to let go of expectations and invite fate. I can plan my route, and plan timing for potentially advantageous light, but I can never plan what may happen in nature itself.

When shooting landscapes, I search for an ideal background composition and try to have something or someone add the story element to the image. This photograph was made along the Oregon coast where I camped near sand dunes and awoke at dawn surrounded by the creamy light of the sun rising through a gently rolling fog.

I had crossed the dunes, photographing the gentle waves when I heard a flock of distant ducks heading up the coastline towards an inland marsh. Running as fast as I could back towards the road that divided the dunes from the marsh, I grabbed my 100-400mm zoom from the van, mounted it fast and captured the trailing flock as they headed south through the rising fog. This was an exhilarating adventure, and also reminded me that the best photos may be the ones beyond prediction, and that having a camera ready is the only way to capture the moment at hand.

About the artist

Dave's career began in the natural sciences prior to earning a BFA with honors in Communications Design from Pratt Institute in NY. His four decade career has included corporate art direction, design, assemblage, photographic illustration and photography for clients worldwide. His photographs and illustrations appear in publications including Nikon World, Outside, NY Times, The Baltimore Sun, LA Times, National Geographic Traveler, Outdoor Photographer, Orion, PRINT, Rangefinder and Islands. He has appeared on many episodes of Hit The Streets and in other podcasts on the arts.

Since 2001, Dave has instructed photography with the prestigious Santa Fe Workshop, Maine Media Workshops, Vancouver Photo Workshops, The Lepp Institute, The Anderson Ranch and at-sea adventures with UnCruise. Dave leads his own annual cultural travel photography workshops in the US, Mexico, Europe, India, Vietnam and annually in Cuba.

He is an adjunct instructor at University of Washington and Seattle Central College's Creative Academy. Dave consults with product developers that include Adobe, Apple, Wacom, Fujifilm, Topaz Labs, DXO and Lowepro. He is a member of the Fujifilm X/GFX CREATORS pro photographer team.

Dave has a passion for inspiring and guiding emerging and advanced photographers to understand the nature of light, to discover their unique personal vision and to reach their creative goals.

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Kendall Eng

Course Teaching Assistant



About this work

One of my favorite places to visit is Fiji with the calming sounds of ocean waves lapping at the shore and the brilliant blue skies that paint gorgeous sunsets. It's been my home away from home since I was very little and offers many great places to explore both on land and underwater. This collage is from my latest visit towards the end of 2022. It shows the beauty of the black sand beaches of Denarau Island, an alluvial island a short taxi ride away from downtown Nadi and the international airport. These photos were all shot on my iPhone while walking along the beach. If you visit Fiji, be sure to bring your camera and embrace Fiji's natural, effortless beauty that I love.

About the artist

I always preferred being behind the camera, rather than in front of it. Photography pulls me in by capturing moments that bring back memories to share or playing around with something new that catches my eye. I enjoy taking pictures of nature, pets, nightlife, and all around experimenting. There's also the occasional selfie.

Lately, I've been using my phone's camera and wandering to see what catches my lens.

"Not all who wander are lost" – J.R.R. Tolkien

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Angegrathes flavides - Kongaros Pan

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Ray Pfortner, Fall Quarter
David Julian, Winter and Spring Quarters

and

Kendall Eng, Teaching Assistant

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