

Artist Statement

Photography has been a primary interest throughout my life. While obtaining a degree as a Philosophy Major, I took a few courses in photography and journalism to support myself as a free-lance artist.

Photographically, I maintain a strong proponent of "traditional" photography and "silver" imagery, and continue to develop gelatin silver prints from 35mm to large format film, in my own dark room. A handmade, silver print is a thing of great beauty and it is like a little window of time. When we look into that window we can see a small slice of the photographer's "reality" at a given instant, frozen in metallic silver. It is my opinion that a digital photograph can not convey that magic moment quite as well, and there is an underlying suspicion of manipulation, which through advanced digital technology, can be seamlessly applied to any image. I do incorporate the use of digital format, while still maintaining the pre-visualization technique learned from a lifetime of using film media.

I had the opportunity to study and acquire the skills necessary to master the "Zone System of Photography" under the instruction of Ansel Adams. The Zone System was a technique developed in the 1930's by Adams as a way to standardize proper exposures for black and white film, which represent the tones of an image from the darkest areas of your photograph to the brightest, whitest areas of the photo or print. Ansel perfected this vision through a process called visualization, which requires the photographer to "pre-visualize", or imagine how the final photo will come out.

"Photography is a means of recording one's pilgrimage" - Charles Tompkins