



President's Message  
Finding Inspiration  
February 21, 2008

Photography is like art. At times photographers need inspiration that creates a burning desire to pack up the camera gear and get to shooting. The club meetings with the competitions and the programs as well as the outings help to education and inspire. However, that is only one form of inspiration. I for one draw my inspiration from many sources. This may be why I take so many different types of pictures. Some of the inspiration comes from my photography friends and club members while others come from the internet and other sources. So I am going to list a few of my inspirational methods in hopes that it will inspire you. Please feel free to add to the list.

(1). The OVCC Camera Club. This is a great source of inspiration. The meetings and fellowship with others who share your passion for photography are priceless. The competitions give us assignments and goals while pushing us to improve. The programs at the club education as well as inspire and the give the opportunity to meet professionals in the photography business.

(2). Juried Competitions. Working to find that perfect shot that will allow you to win and gain recognition is a great source of inspiration. Local events such as Art in the Park, the Galleries, and other local events as well as JPEG Magazine which has a monthly contest all are good juried events. It is great to also look at other works that may win to determine what they did right and how you can do the same or better.

(3). The Internet. This is one of the greatest sources for inspiration. I enjoy looking at Posters and Art that is for sale on the internet. Look under the category of Photography. These shots were taken by some of the world's best photographers. Also, keep in mind if you wish to get into the Fine Art Photography this is a great resource to study. These prints are already selling so if you can create this quality and type of print yours will also. <http://www.barewalls.com/> and <http://www.allposters.com> are great sites to look at stock photography. To see others great sites just Google "Stock Photography". The internet has created a multi-million dollar business by selling photos to advertisers, web designers, and graphic artist through Stock Photography.

It is a great place to look at millions of photos and also to see what is selling and what is not. Some great sites to start with are <http://www.Shutterstock.com>, <http://www.Fotosearch>, and <http://www.istockphoto.com>.

(4). Magazines. There is nothing more inspirational than setting down with a good photo magazine and digesting it word for word and photo by photo. I keep a library of magazines and enjoy going through them over and over again. Some good examples are JPEG MAGAZINE, DIGITAL PHOTO PRO MAGAZINE, and DIGITAL CAMERA WORLD. Most can be found at a local book store.

(5). Other Photographers. One of the greatest inspirations comes from getting to know other photographers whose style you like or the level of quality you would like to achieve. Most very successful photographs are extremely busy, but almost all share a common personality trait. They like talking about their work and sharing with other budding photographers. I correspond with some very high profile and very highly paid photographers. Some are out of LA and New York. I start out sending them an email telling the how much I love their work, and then I tell them a little about myself. The next time I may email them with a question. I always try to keep it short so they could respond with a few words or a line or two. I always keep in mind that I am most likely interrupting their daily work and that there is no real benefit for them taking the time to respond to me at all. If you stay very respectful you will be very surprised how they respond. So over a period of time I have established even a friendship with a few very inspirational photographers. I will share a few here.

<http://www.hunterfreeman.com/> (HUNTER FREEMAN)

<http://www.slidebite.com/about.html> (MAURA LANAHAN)

<http://www.manipulator.com/> (Jill Greenburg)

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/markvelasquez/show/> (Mark Velasquez)

(6) Photography Seminars, Training Courses and Workshops. Of course these types of training programs are designed to inspire and to motivate as well as educate photographers. Some that I have attended are:

<http://www.triangleinstitute.org/> (Triangle Photography in Pittsburgh PA),

<http://www.davidfattaleh.com/?view=workshops> (David Fattaleh)

There have been others that I do not remember the names.

(7) Collections of Photos. I collect photography and art by capturing them off the Internet. Since I do not sell or post any of the images that I capture I do not feel I have broken any copyright laws. However, if I have, then please forgive me. I do think the highest compliment a photographer or artist can achieve is someone wanting to learn and be inspired by their work. I do have a free program that allows you to capture images from the Internet or grab and crop any image on the screen and then save it in just about any format. Some sites block the 'right click' ability to 'save' a picture but this program does not stop you from capturing the picture. I use this program quite a bit. If you are interested in knowing more about this program, let me know. I then store the pictures in folders by category. If I then want to do a shoot or a portrait setting I look at

these pictures for ideas and inspiration. I also print them and put them in photo binders so that I can have them in the studio for me or my subject to look at for ideas.

That is how I get inspired. I hope it helps you also.

Michael Adkins  
President