

Artist's statement

Writing and photography are the two integral halves of my life that complement and balance one another. Even though they use different “writing” tools – words and light – for me, they seek a common purpose: to make sense of time and the impermanence of all things. In writing, I strive to validate the past by recording my thoughts and memories; in photography, I strive to “archive” the present by capturing a fleeting moment and making it last. These inspire me to appreciate the temporariness of life and thus build a happier future.

One of the greatest influences on my life was Freeman Patterson, a renowned photographer, writer, and teacher, with whom I had the privilege to study visual design and whose books have an honorable place in my personal library. I consider Freeman my artistic and spiritual guru who inspired me to master the art of seeing and the art of being. According to Freeman, there is no more important time and place than the here and now. Both arts – of seeing and of being - have roots in the Zen school of thought and require the ability to learn how to silence all other voices, except for your own, and peel off the layers of habitual vision or conformity so that you can better discover what is underneath the familiar. Discoveries are found everywhere, even though they are not found easily. They are there for the eyes that can see.

In photography, my choice of subject comes from the immediate world of nature that unfolds around me at any given moment. Some of my favorite themes are the passage of time, change of seasons, transformation, and the primordial ingenuity of the natural world, subordinated to the birth-reproduction-death cycle. We tend to romanticize nature's beauty. I see what nature really is and love it still.