

PHOTOGRAPHER'S BIO

Wherever I am, much of my life is spent alone in coffee shops. My most trusted companion, a Leica rangefinder camera, shares the table with me. I only come fully alive while roaming the city with my companion, hunting.

My first love affair was with a very clunky East German single lens reflex, my dates were exciting experiences in a darkroom which my father built in our basement, and my teenage experimentations were with black and white, and then with color film.

I attended Michigan State University and graduated as a computer engineer. My darkroom was dismantled and my camera equipment was all but forgotten while I prospered after many years a software developer. But now I have returned to photography and live through the lens again.

My relationships are still mostly with the random and anonymous people that I photograph, in black and white, using a small and unobtrusive camera. I love the people whom I reach out to in my photographs. They are my connection to humanity and my creative conundrum.

While living in Austin, Texas, I founded Austin Center for Photography and spent four years building and guiding it through a successful launch. When not photographing, I create photography books of both my own work and of the work of others. FAIR WITNESS is a monograph of my street photography, and IN THE GUTTER is a small look at the art of the book. Currently, I am finishing off LOOK At Me, a highly personal exploration of desire and regret. Nowadays, I can usually be found in a coffee shop or on the streets of New York City searching for my next photographic relationship.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S ARTIST STATEMENT

Why must my photographs include people? And why are pictures of other things often lost on me? The flowers and oceans of even a master photographer's landscape will bloom and crest as they always have, but for me people are full of surprises and are continual source of wonder. I watch them distractedly making their way through their lives. As I create photographs, I possess these living moments.

My photographs are stolen from the strangers around me -- but my specific choices about when to click the shutter come from within me, reflecting my own humor, melancholy, and incongruities. This inscrutable blend of my own peculiarities and fleeting glimpses of perfect strangers is found in my photographs.

At my core, I am a classic black and white street photographer, working in the genre that appeared before the Second World War. Now I use photography's power to capture emotional images in our modern era picturing the day to day cinema of life.

While my love for the street never fades, I have produced a variety of other work. In Croatia, I created a photo essay on the war ravaged city of Vukovar; the project SWEET SPOTS was photographed with a plastic toy camera; and work progresses on an environmental portraits of young men met at random in my LOOK At Me series.

When not photographing, I create photography books of both my own work and of the work of others. Recent books include FAIR WITNESS is a monograph of my street photography and PISS is a European journal of public relief.

FAIR WITNESS

ARTIST STATEMENT

For reasons both within and beyond my control, I have lived more as a witness than a participant in my life: a voyeur. But I cannot photograph a loving couple without envy. I cannot photograph a beautiful person without longing.

I wandered big city streets among people who have relaxed into the chaos, and they were mostly unaware of my presence. I looked specifically for humor, irony, pathos, unusual juxtapositions, curious faces, and real or imagined stories. Each of the photographs in FAIR WITNESS occurred in my path, unplanned, and would have evaporated within seconds, if I had not been ready with my camera.

In this way, FAIR WITNESS has captured moments of quiet and profound symbolism. Essentially I have been a Symbolist with a camera.

There are very few artists who create genres. Picasso and El Greco did. The vast majority of artists, even those who have a unique vision, work within an existing genre which for photographers and artists alike is their chosen visual language. The genre through which I 'see' is street photography.

LOOK At Me

ARTIST STATEMENT

LOOK At Me is a collection of portraits of young men who agreed to be photographed. I asked them to arrive unprepared, to sit three feet in front of a 50mm lens, to think silently about something with an emotional charge for them, and then to beam that out to me entirely through their eyes.

Each young man's portrait is intentionally similar, taken in a public place using available light, each face being composed to one side of the frame while the other side breathes within the surrounding environment. In this way, a stylistic conformity brings all of the young men together.

But in reality, as each face disappears into the next, the young men diverge radically with each broadcasting their own urgency, immediacy, and place within the universe. The young men are chosen for a boyish look and a projection of openness and vulnerability.

While this is a true collaboration of subject and photographer, it is also a personal journey. With each portrait, I absorb their youthfulness and explore aging, identity, lost opportunity, and an obsession with beauty and artlessness. And thus, LOOK At Me reflects my own longing and becomes a diary of intoxication.

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CV

Awards

- 2012 Gowanus Loft Gallery, NYC, Art From The Heart group show, most popular image
B&W Magazine, 2012 Portfolio Contest, three Merit Awards
- 2010 B&W Magazine, 2010 Portfolio Contest, three Merit Awards
B&W Magazine, 2010 Single Image Contest, Silver and Merit Awards
- 2009 B&W Magazine, 2009 Portfolio Contest, two Merit Awards
- 2008 Watson Studio Gallery. Urban Ambience Exhibition, honorable mention best in show
Photo Techniques Magazine portfolio contest, first place overall
B&W Magazine, 2007 Portfolio Contest, Merit Award
- 2007 Photographers Forum Magazine contest, fourth place overall
The Photo Review annual competition winner

Collections

- 2013 FAIR WITNESS book maquette added to permanent collection, Harry Ransom Center
FAIR WITNESS book maquette added to indie Photobook Library collection
- 2012 In The Gutter book, three prints added to permanent collection, Harry Ransom Center
In The Gutter and LOOK At Me books added to indie Photobook Library collection
- 2010 Austin Museum of Art, print added to permanent collection of Contemporary Portraits
- 2007 The Shepherd Center, Atlanta, Georgia , print on permanent display
- 2006 Silhouette Gallery, Austin, Texas, six prints on permanent display

Exhibitions

- 2013 Umbrella Arts Gallery, NYC, FAIR WITNESS solo show
Camerawork Gallery, Portland, FAIR WITNESS solo show
ONWARD Compé '13 Exhibition, Philadelphia, group show
Houston Center for Photography, members's only group show
Perfect Exposures Gallery, Los Angeles, Top 100 Exhibit group show
PhotoNW Center, Seattle, 8th Annual Juried competition, MUSINGS, group show

Rayko Photo Center, San Francisco, ME, MYSELF, AND I group show
The Photo Review 2013 Competition, Philadelphia, group show

2012 LOOK At Me book, indie Photobook Library group book show, Guatemala City
Gowanus Loft Gallery, NYC, Art From The Heart, group show
SohoPhoto Gallery NYC, Krappy Kamera Kontest, group show
Manetamed Gallery NYC, LOOK At Me, group show
ONWARD Compé '12 Exhibition, group show
B. Hollyman Gallery, Austin, Texas, Collected Works group show

2011 Slideluck Potshow NYC, fundraiser selection
Center for Fine Art Photography, Black & White group show
Center for Fine Art Photography, Portraits group show

2010 Texas Photographic Society, Members Only group show
Medici Gallery, Austin, Texas, Fear & Loathing solo show
Slideluck Potshow Sante Fe, featured slide show

2009 Slideluck Potshow Austin, featured slide show
Lava Gallery, Austin, Texas, Sweet Spots solo show

2008 Watson Studio Gallery, Johnson City, Texas, Urban Ambience Exhibition group show

2007 Medici Gallery, Austin, Texas, Collective Clip group show
Bella Creo Gallery, Boerne Texas, FOTOSEPTIEMBRE USA, Grad Vukovar solo show
Thunderbird Gallery, Austin, Texas, Retrospective 2007, solo show
Project Basho Onward '08 Exhibition, group show
The Darkroom of New Orleans, Red Show group show
Center for Fine Art Photography, group show
The Houston Center for Photography, multi-media Txt Me L&r Project group show

2006 Adams Ave Gallery, Austin, Texas, The November Project solo show

2005 Little City Gallery, Austin, Texas, Central Texas solo show

Publications

2013 Deviants, book of poetry by Peter Kline, book cover photograph

2012 B&W Magazine, 2010 Portfolio Contest Special Issue
Shpilman Institute blog, Tel Aviv, featured bio and images

PHOTOGRAPHER
David
Lykes
Keenan

- The Photo Brigade web site, featured story and images from FAIR WITNESS series
F-Stop Magazine, three portraits featured in Portrait Issue
591 Photography blog, featured story and images
Flags Violet blog, featured story and images from LOOK At me series
Precision Camera blog, featured interview
Adore Noir Magazine, Portfolio Contest featured image
Adore Noir Magazine, featured interview and images from LOOK At me series
- 2011 B&W Magazine, 2010 Portfolio Contest Special Issue
- 2010 B&W Magazine, 2010 Portfolio Contest Special Issue
B&W Magazine, 2010 Single Image Contest Special Issue
LeicaShots.com web site, featured image
- 2009 B&W Magazine, 2009 Portfolio Contest Special Issue
The Digital Journalist, Camera Corner, The Leica M9
The Digital Journalist, Camera Corner, The Leica M8.2 Experience article
- 2008 Photo Techniques Magazine, featured portfolio spread
B&W Magazine, 2007 Portfolio Contest Special Issue
- 2007 Black & White Magazine (UK), reader submission featured image
Photographers Forum Magazine, contest featured image
The Photo Review Magazine, annual competition featured image
Shutterbug Magazine, Talking Pictures featured image