

WEI CHEN

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<http://www.SilenceGallery.com>

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ART STATEMENT

Using the camera as a brush, and painting with light to create abstract and impressionistic painting-like photography is my way and means of creating art and realizing my dream of being an artist.

For me, light is an unconventional paint, which can be moved from one place to another using the camera - the unconventional brush. I like to think of this process as light shifting. Much ephemeral and mostly unseen beauty, in some aspects somewhat surrealistic, can only be viewed through this form of light shifting. The ever-changing sky and ocean has always been my natural canvas. Often times, I create images by following my instincts, driven by the mood and the feeling of being immersed in the moment.

I find myself having strong connection to the interaction between the sky and the ocean. This might be a long way back to my childhood memory and meteorology study and practice during my 20's. The moment of dusk when the sky and the ocean start to merge into one and retreat from people's daily life is the moment I find to be fascinating and find myself feeling alive. There were countless nights, alone, in the dark, I was wandering on the Edmonds beach and waiting for the last splash of light from the sky, and exhilarated when I finally caught that magic moment. That's when many of my most personal work were created.

My principle is to create in-camera painting-like images with minimal post-process and retouch. Striving to use simple form to celebrate the abstract expression and the essence of the moment and places, I like to use shadow, shape and color to convey the moods and emotions I experienced at the moment. By extracting and distilling the subtle shades and shadows through the magic of light, I attempt to turn them into the surreal splendor and the moment of wonder of my own.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

06/2014 - 07/2014: "People Photography" at North Seattle Community College, Seattle, Washington (Instructed by Robert Stahl)

01/2014 - 02/2014: "Seeing in Black & White" at North Seattle Community College, Seattle Washington (Instructed by Robert Stahl)

09/2008 - 10/2008: "Camera Techniques and Art" at Shoreline Community College, Seattle, Washington (Instructed by Robert Stahl)

08/2003 - 05/2005: M.S. in Computer Science, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

09/1989 - 07/1993: B.S. in Meteorology and Computer Application in Beijing Institute of Meteorology, China

2008-2014: attended multiple National Geographic Traveler Photography Seminars

EXHIBITION

May 3, 2014 – June 28, 2014: "Silent Breeze of Night" solo exhibition, at Asia Pacific Cultural Center Gallery, Tacoma, Washington

April, 2014: "Art of Forest" juried show at A/NT Gallery, Seattle, Washington, USA

AWARD

January 2014: Light Space & Time Online Art Gallery, All Photography Art Competition – Special Recognition Award

PUBLISHED WORKS

A large number of my works have been selected and published on several Facebook high-profile art and photography community sites, such as Minimal Art Photography, Minimalism, Minimalism II, New Photo Art, LENS Folio, The GUT'S Gallery, Photo Lab Evidence Gallery. The list of published work links will be provided on request.

AFFILIATION

Member of Gallery North, Edmonds, Washington

Member of PSA (Photographic Society of America)

Member of NANPA (The North American Nature Photography Association)