

Mark Battista

Artist Statement

I am a painter and fine art photographer. My experience as a painter has greatly influenced my photography. The way I “see”, compose and light my subject matter has a direct connection to the way I transform a blank canvas into a finished painting. I approach constructing the image from an additive process. It is a process in which elements are added, altered, and manipulated, as if working with colors on a canvas, rather than finding a scene and shooting it “as is”..

My personal approach towards composition seeks to create a visual hierarchy of interest. Through the manipulation of light, color and texture the viewer’s eye is directed through the photograph. I desire to tell a story and express a mood through the selected subject matter, lighting and color. Conscious choice and intent drives how the image is composed and lit, while allowing for some experimentation and play to explore and push my work.

I often use still life imagery as metaphor. My images often contain subjects that serve as symbols that speak of memories, dreams and the subconscious. My paintings and photography strive to express more than an objective depiction of the subject matter. It is my goal to be more of a visual poet, rather than a documentarian.

Images are often inspired by an initial concept that is vague and nebulous. Concepts develop regularly from a period of time when I am just waking up or about to fall asleep. I keep a sketchpad near my bed to jot down quick sketches of ideas that come through my semi-conscious state. I will then make quick “thumbnail sketches” to work out the composition and major value arrangements. Once the subject matter has been gathered, I then explore the subject through the camera. The original concept is often fluid and changes as I go through the process of creating the image. I allow for variations and alterations of my original concept as the piece develops.

Like a great Haiku poem, I seek to simplify the visual components of my design to only the essential elements.