Welcome to the first issue of Beyond the Lens Photo Journal, where I present and share my latest images in a high quality presentation. These photographs were all made during the fall season, a favorite time of mine to enjoy nature's magic moments of color and change. It's a time when I am reminded of the cycle of life as winter draws nearer, yet I know another dawn awaits in the spring. I've tried to capture not only my travels, but my experiences and feelings towards these special moments I've been fortunate to witness.

Take a moment to come closer to nature, feel good about life, and appreciate the simple miracles happening every day.
Pollopel Island, Hudson River

Pollopel Island, otherwise known as Bannerman’s Island and site of the historic Bannerman Castle, sits at the head of the Hudson Highlands in the Hudson River. Frank Bannerman purchased it in 1900 and built a Scottish style castle on the island as a summer retreat and as a storage place for his arms business. In 1967 the Bannermans sold the island to the State of New York, and it is now part of the Hudson Highlands State Park.

While the architecture is the main attraction, I’m always looking for the natural, and was drawn to this amazing display of life and color. Perhaps it was the symbolic contrast of the old and new that motivated me to compose this image, and express a hopeful view of what has been left to ruin.

- Canon 1Ds Mk III, 24mm ts-e lens, 1/80 sec, f/ 5.6, ISO 400
“The thing to remember when traveling is that the trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you will miss all that you are traveling for.” - Louis L’Amour
Early Frost
• Canon 1DS Mk III, 100mm lens, 1 sec, f/20, ISO 100
Storm King Summit, Hudson Highlands

This is one of my favorite hikes in all of the Hudson Valley due to the variety of terrain, and the spectacular views up and down the mighty Hudson River. It is also quite exposed at the top with many rock outcroppings, and here I tried to catch the light as the sun broke over the horizon. Such moments for me are like magic, bringing pure inspiration that I attempt to capture with the press of the shutter. Days like these reinforce my belief in the power of determination and perseverance.

• Canon 1Ds Mk III, 24mm ts-e lens, 32mm, 1/4 sec, f/14, ISO 200
Canopus Lake, Fahenstock St Park

- Canon 5D, 70-200mm L lens, 110mm, 1/13 sec, f/11, ISO 200
“Silent Forest”, Acadia National Park

While I enjoy every aspect of nature from an open mountain top to the calm of a lake's edge, none are more intimate, more surreal than the interior of a pine forest. The soft green carpet deadens my footsteps, and all that is left is quiet contemplation, and the warmth of early light shining into the cool, moist home of these majestic trees.

• Canon 1Ds Mk III, 24-105L lens, 28mm, 1/15 sec, f/8, ISO 200
River Dreams, Hudson River

A moment of calm and stillness, interpreted with the aid of a long exposure. Musical ideas are always part of my creative process, and like a hypnotic rhythm, the clouds kept me mesmerized for what seemed like hours. In the end, what I try to convey is something greater than what I can imagine, something that makes these moments worth remembering.

- Canon 1Ds Mk III, 17-40L lens, 18mm, 25 sec, f/16, ISO 200
"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike." - John Muir
Come closer to nature...one moment at a time.

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