

Don Jacobson Photography

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Artist Information

The world of photography and the world of the natural wonders of the Sierra Nevada opened to Don Jacobson simultaneously. The photographs he took with his little Kodak Brownie were woefully inadequate to express the grandeur of the Range of Light. Within a week of his first backpack trip into the high country, he bought his first SLR, a Pentax Spotmatic and began to take photography classes.

His degree is in electrical engineering and he worked in that field for three years. Working for the defense industry became more of a contradiction with his political views initiating a search for a desperately needed a creative outlet. For the next twenty-eight years he worked as a glassblower. His work was shown in galleries across the United States, and the Corning Museum included a piece of his in their 1986 collection of 200 international glassblowers. Although glassblowing was his "day job," he continued to practice the art of photography, studying photography with Edmund Teske at UCLA for a year. The two different mediums, are connected by light. The magic of glass is in its ability to transmit and reflect light while photography is the capturing of light.

During the years he lived in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1973 through 1976, he amassed 135 images of owner decorated vehicles. He is currently a member of the Portland Photographers Forum and the Interim Group, a critique group originally formed by the influential photographer Minor White.

His love of taking photographs of our beautiful native wildflowers contributed to his interest in botany. He led trips for the California Native Plant Society, the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Bark, Oregon Wild (formerly ONRC) and Portland Audubon. For sixteen seasons, he was a naturalist/guide for the Middle Mountain Foundation, leading hikes in the Sutter Buttes of the Sacramento Valley in California. "Beauty of the West," a book of his photographs was published in 2007 and "Owner Decorated Vehicles" in 2009.

Artist Statement

I see the world differently now. The camera, which narrows the field of vision, has actually expanded my vision. When I realized I was viewing reality as if it were a series of photographs, I initially questioned that perspective. Now, I know my perception is enhanced and enriched from my pursuit of photography. An already dynamic and interesting world has become more so.

I am delighted by quality of light, vibrancy of color, unexpected and often unnoticed detail. The stunning structure of an orchid, the intricate ornamentation on an older building, or dishes stacked in a dish drainer are fascinating to me. Abstractions and patterns are richer and invite investigation. My subject matter is limitless. Anything that appeals to my eye is fair game for my camera.

SELECTED EXHIBITS:

Portland Photographers Forum, Aurora Gallery, Vancouver, WA. May 2005

Color By Digital, Gallery 16, Malden, MA September 2005

Synan Art Studio Gallery, Portland OR, November 2005
Portland Audubon Center, Portland OR, June 2006
Historic Doors of Portland, Architectural Heritage Center, Portland OR, October 2006
Historic Porches of Portland, Architectural Heritage Center, Portland OR, September 2007
Men's Creativity Exposed, Sixth Street Gallery, Vancouver, WA April 2007
Donatello Gallery, Portland, OR, August 2007
White Sturgeon Gallery, Vancouver, WA., November 2007
Multnomah Arts Center, Portland, OR, January 2008
Showcase 2008, Beaverton Arts Commission February 2008
Keep Portland Weird, Portland City Hall, March 2008
Mayor's Invitational Oregon Artist Series, Salem 2008-2009
150 Years of Portland Architecture, Pittock Mansion, February - July 2009
2009 Pacific Northwest Art Annual, Adell McMillian Gallery, Eugene April/May 2009
2009 Photography Guild Invitational, The Arts Center, Corvallis, OR April/May 2009
Newspice Center For Photography, Members Show, September 2009
Found Portland, Architectural Heritage Center, November/December 2009
Camerawork Gallery, March 27 to April 23, 2010

AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS:

Finalist 2005 Oregon Wild Photography Contest
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First place, Endangered Places, 2007 Oregon Wild Photography Contest
First place, two honorable mentions 2006 Architectural Heritage Historic Door Contest
Two honorable mentions 2007 Architectural Heritage Historic Porches Contest
Theme Award, 2007 International Photography Exhibition, Oregon State Fair
2006 Native Plant Society Wildflower Appreciation Month Poster
2007 Native Plant Society Wildflower Appreciation Month Poster
"Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest." Mark Turner/Phyllis Gustafson
"Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties, California" Redbud Chapter, California Native Plant Society
Finalist, Photographers Forum, "Best of Photography Annual 2007, 2008, 2009"
First place, Photography, Showcase 2008, Beaverton Arts Commission
Second place, People's choice, Audubon Native Plant Photography Contest, May 2008
Finalist, Photographers Forum, "Best of Photography Annual 2008"
Three honorable mentions, Architectural Heritage Center's 2008 Photography Contest
"Wildflower Magazine," Summer 2009
Hawthorne Bridge Calendar 2012
Honorable Award /Diploma of Excellence 1st Global Photo Annual Competition