

David Kahn - Bio

David was raised in an art-filled environment. His mother was frequently painting in the studio, and taught several weekly art classes. Many family friends were artists. There was art on the walls, frequent visits to galleries, and plenty of encouragement to create art. Even so, David wasn't satisfied with most of the art he attempted to create.

He had a typical introduction to photography for his age, a Brownie camera, an Instamatic, and finally an SLR (Minolta X-700) after graduating from college. He took some snapshots, particularly while traveling, but wasn't particularly inspired to experiment artistically. A barrier (to him) was the cost of film and developing – which was necessary even for images that didn't "work".

David got his first digital camera (Sony Mavica) in 1999, an early model that saved images to a floppy disk. Even though the quality of the images that this camera could capture was limited, David was excited by the idea that (after buying the camera) he could experiment for free! For the first time, he could take 40 pictures of the frost on the front lawn without worrying about wasting film!

This camera, and the cameras that replaced it as technology improved, provided David with the tools he needed to develop as an artist. He joined Gateway Camera Club to learn more about the medium and exchange ideas with other photographers. He studied the works of other artists and photographers. He started to appreciate the photographs he was producing as works of art. He started to call himself an artist!

In 2006, David created *New England Light Painters* (NELP), a new photography club for artists. The purpose of the club is to encourage and nurture artists who use photography as an art medium, to help them set and achieve their artistic goals. For more information on NELP, see <http://wordpress.nelightpainters.org/>.

David is an active member of the Natick arts community, and has participated in Natick Open Studios for more than 10 years. He has shown his work in solo and group shows organized by New England Light Painters, The Center for Arts in Natick, Amazing Things Arts Center (Framingham) and Davis Art Gallery (Worcester).

He currently shoots with a Nikon D800 DSLR, with an assortment of flashes, reflectors and other accessories. For David, the purpose of the camera is to capture usable "raw material". He then makes extensive use of the digital darkroom (Photoshop, Nik filters, etc.) to turn this raw material into polished images that meet his exacting standards. Lastly, he prints and frames these images using state-of-the-art equipment and archival materials to ensure the best possible presentation and long life for each image.

David's current artistic focus is the photographic montage. This technique lets him explore the use of his images as a palette, creating his finished work as a collection of carefully arranged and processed images. The art of montage makes it possible to express visual ideas in new and exciting ways.



Forest Of One (2012)