

## The Passionate Photographer

by Leo Forte

Andrea Hänni's thirst for creativity is second only to his avid passion for Photography. Few people I have known live that devotion every minute of each day with an astonishing production of high-quality representations of every available subject. His clever eye finds inspiration as he scrutinizes and transforms any visual experience into original imagery. Even the most humble of subjects are transformed in an adventure and a challenge; nothing passes without being inspected and explored whether it be a wall, a rock, a nude, architecture, a friend or an old Fiat 500, just to mention a few. Andrea is a truly competent and complete photographer, a very talented and fine artist with a vast cognizance of the technical intricacies of the media.

I met him in Florence, Italy when he enrolled in Fortman Studios, an International School of Fine art in the early 1980s and our professional relationship and deep friendship have flourished ever since. After having successfully completed his two years of specialization in Photography and Color Theory he returned to Florence every year to confront his images with professors and students, his thirst for learning and sharing has always been inexhaustible. Andrea was the delight of his teachers due to his consistent and remarkable production. This abundance, however, created an obstacle because that fervor did not always coincide with quality. He learned quickly to train his vision through a more critical interpretation and evaluation of his subject as well as what he envisioned as composition and content. His technical abilities were never a topic of discussion. Digital photography was just an idea, a promise, the mere future and the Polaroid was then similar to a toy, a technique that fascinated and challenged him.

Great photographers and artists are favorite companions in his studies into the history of every artistic genre and these have been accomplices during his daily research for images and creative adventures. Unlike many photographers Andrea could never limit his thirst for creativity through the simple technical aspect of a snapshot or towards a commercial endeavor. Andrea's aspiration, his primary ambition was clear from the very beginning; photography as a fine art form would be his only possible destination.

In recent years he has refined every aspect of his remarkable talent through the use of the Polaroid that offers him the possibility of strengthening his interpretive ability and sharpens the emotional element in his photographs. This media has also, may I add, enabled him to express his extremely refined and surprisingly subtle sense of humor. Andrea has sharpened his eye and has now achieved a very profound sense of atmospheric content achieving a universal meaning to every photograph. He is now enticed to photograph the same image several times with the intention of adding a new and different meaning to each composition. Every photograph of the same subject is therefore unique. With his Polaroid prints Andrea has reached a new, highly professional, and very stimulating level of creativity.

I repeat Andrea Hänni is a truly motivated artist in love with his media and infatuated with the world that surrounds him. I couldn't be more proud to have witnessed, over these many years, the development of his extraordinary talent and to have been the recipient of his wholehearted friendship.

Leo Forte  
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