



Art Statement

Throughout history, man has always needed to express his deepest feelings and has been able to achieve it through art and its different branches. For many, art has allowed them to open up more efficiently and in a deeper way than words. However, the challenge consists of finding an area that will end up to be the ideal communicative channel between our inner selves and our fellow men. Sometimes the most difficult barrier to break... is our own.

*From my personal experience and throughout my photographic presentations, I have noticed that perception towards photography tends to lean more on the technical side, to obtain financial gain or distinctions, this to the cost of the one which fosters self-expression. The substance of my message is the following: what it is being done with sculpture, painting, writing, music... as an expressive tool can be accomplished with as much strength with photography. A tool that can allow us to express our creativity with force and to be able to share our emotions by it is worth looking into and to live the experience of it, in the same way the masters lived theirs throughout their works of art. In the present context here, it is not about making a living with art but **living a life** with it. It is about being honest, sincere with our feelings and with ourselves. Individuality shines through in our pictures. And from what we see will we find our direction.*

Photography doesn't have to be limited only to taking technically acceptable pictures. It is true that the inner nature of this kind of approach is not for everyone. Also it doesn't come without risk for those who wishes to see their images becoming increasingly more personal, that will reflect more one's state of mind. Such intimate approach will be often received with some indifference from those among the inner and outer circle and will cause a certain detachment from photographic colleagues. In addition, such opening will bring the photographer to experience insecurity and vulnerability. However, for those who have the courage to overcome such fear and get fully involved in an inner emotional mind-digging work, it can become a powerful expressive tool for personal growth when well used. Bringing such integrity to our work, keeping it through the entire process and looking at the resulting images can bring us a great deal of joy. Such inner transformation will bring, in return, to experience more sensitivity, more aliveness and more energy. Throughout our photographic work and the journey itself, some facets of our personality will be revealed, maybe some betraying a certain emotional vulnerability or some as strong as steel. Whatever the series of feelings experienced, such process will allow us to grow as photographers and as human beings.

One of the most beautiful expressions of one's individuality is found in our practicing of the Arts under its different ramifications, including photography. It is the reflection of our passion, of our determination, of our inner selves. It strengthens us individually, also brings us self-respect, dignity and will end up gaining back respect from others. Yes, the most beautiful victories are those within us on which no price can be set.

Whatever lies in the future for us, one thing will probably remain: Expression by the Arts. It has always been and will always be available to those wishing to go one notch further in their creative quest and to seek their true identity, one picture at a time and in the true creative spirit.

Denis Gionet, Photo Artist