

AQUILINE MAGAZINE

MAY 2017

PHOTOGRAPHY
OF SKULLS AND
OTHER HAUNTING
SUBJECTS

SUMMER
ISSUE

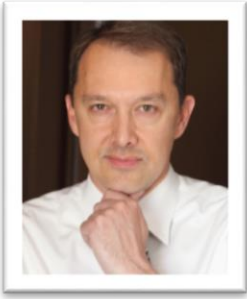
SUMMER'S COMING: THINK BODY
POSITIVITY BY DAN LEE

SHORT ARTICLE
ON THE FLOUR
SHOOT BY
BLESSING CARNES

ZOOMING IN OR ZOOMING OUT,
WHICH IS BEST IN YOUR LIFE?



Welcome to the tenth edition of AQUILINE MAGAZINE! Peek at AQ's newest images! You know, if you want to be a powerful artist, technician, or engineer there are two important views you must have in my opinion. One view is called detail. You



must be able to get down into the weeds and work the details to have a powerful final product. The other view is called abstraction. Abstraction mean zoom out or “lack of detail”. Many who talk about abstraction reference the idea of how you get into a car and turn the key. At that point, you do not care how that complex

engine works. Your view of the car needs only to be abstract or lacking detail and zoom out to the basic functions it performs. You turn the key, turn the wheel, and drive away. However, if you want to repair that car you best have the technician's view of fine-detail on exactly what parts go into the car and why they go there.

Similarly, as an artist they called Picasso's work abstract. He would zoom out and represent people as odd shapes yet you could tell it was a person. He wasn't there to show you detail. The French painter Claude Monet also was about strokes of paint showing people on a river but with little to no detail to their faces and such.

This ability to be both zoomed-out and zoomed-in remains a powerful one. I watched some house flipping shows recently. People buy a broken home, fix it, and then resell it for more than they purchased it for. In this type television series, the couple would go into a wrecked home and removed mold and broken boards with endless drama in detail. Once they fixed the house hopefully within budget, they would switch roles. After the house looked amazing, they would put on a tie and suit then hold an open-house to sell the house. Now they were in abstract mode where they were light-hearted talking about curb appeal of the house and family use of the rooms.

Famous and powerful people in history always have this ability. Steve jobs used to solder chips to circuit boards early in his computer career. It's no surprise that when he became manager he would get down into the proverbial weeds with the engineers

telling them how it was to be created even when he was disliked. In the same product, he would then go on stage smiling and flashing around his shiny new product as more a salesperson. The end-user only cared that it didn't crash and that it fit into their own pockets and daily routines nicely. So, this is my advice to be a master of zooming out and zooming in but not necessarily at the same time. In different words, one must take care of the smallest detail in their work and allow themselves a relaxed overview as well.

From a photography viewpoint, the same things are true. They often say “fill the frame” in photography to be interesting. That means to not make the viewer squint looking for your subject when looking at the image you created. I would submit also that when you completely over-fill the frame that also becomes very tiresome if that is all there is to look at image after image. What viewers want is a zoom-out and a zoom-in taking them on a journey and keeping the portfolio from being dull.

I once had two of my young employees approach me and they were eager for me to settle a dispute. One insisted that zoom-out was the only way to live your life. He explained that without the big-picture you couldn't guide your goals properly. The other employee insisted that the zoom-

in on your life was more important. He explained that if a proverbial rock got into your shoes then you couldn't make the long journey up the hill that the big picture provided. For example, if you didn't take preventative maintenance of your car you wouldn't make the appointment you had to attend. I didn't have to think on this subject. The answer was that you need both zoom-in and zoom-out! Think of each of these like ‘roles’ you play. One must be a very detail oriented worker-bee. The other is a glancing supervisor or audience member who only about the overall function and how your product fits in. Are you already doing this and have not given it much thought? If not, give it a try!

Tracy Rose is a technologist, artist, photographer and general imagery aficionado from Colorado Springs, CO. His photography can be seen in numerous online publications and restaurants at the end of the universe.

About the cover: Blessing Carnes is a fitness athlete from Iowa. She remains an unstoppable talent with a personality to match.



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Photographer: Aquiline
Model: BMcKenner



The Purpose of Death

By MJ Sloane

Life and death. Polar opposites by definition. Both needing the other to exist. There is a delicate balance to be held in this natural harmony.

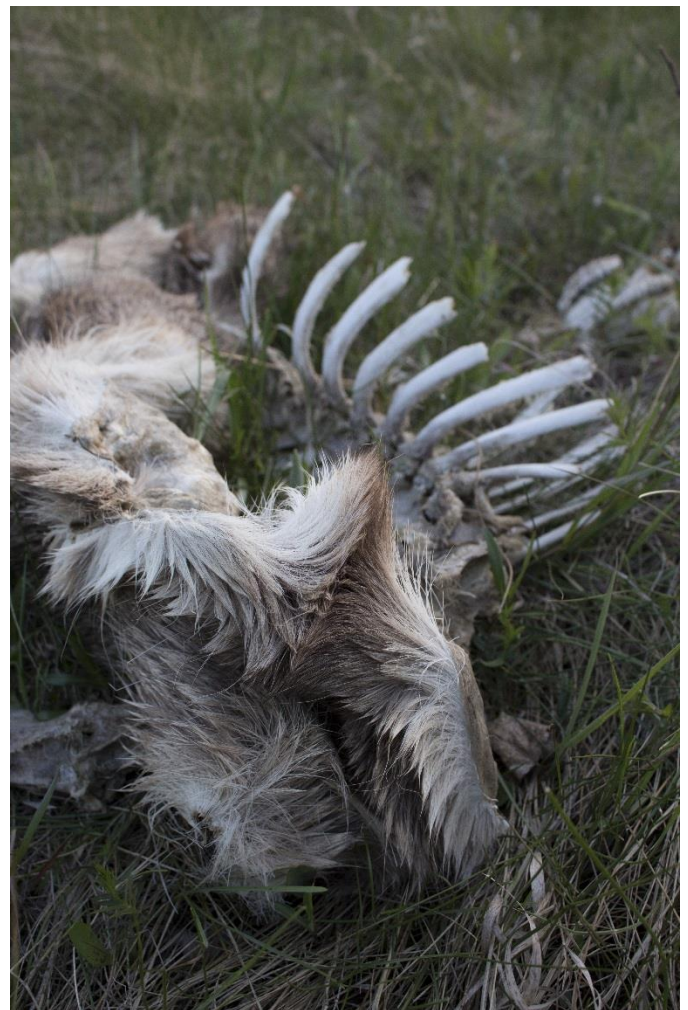


I am MJ Sloane. A young photographer from the small town of Okotoks, Alberta where spotting a deer is nothing special. They roam freely around here like they own the place. But not often do people see one that has lost its life. Usually, people don't want to see it because it generally means an expensive call to the insurance companies after a fatal car accident. On a walk with my aunt, we came across a deer that we could only assume had been attacked by a coyote or some other predator. The Dead Thing. A simple name for the elaborate life of a creature I would never know. It's oddly poetic, the tragedy of death. Somehow, I felt the creature deserved more. This is what drew me to photograph the carcass. I wanted to find the beauty in an artful way.

It interests me to wonder what the reason for the existence of life is. I believe that every life has purpose. Whether it's the deer lying beside the path, or the birds in the sky, or you, reading this article. I ponder what it is that drives each person to make the decisions they do. What it is that makes them happy. What it is that is their purpose. Perhaps some lives are cut too short to live out that purpose. Or maybe the death has just as much meaning as the life before the misfortune. The death of the deer was necessary for the survival of the ecosystem. The

body is decomposed and returns the nutrients to the soil for the good of the grass and the trees. The deer is a small part of something much larger.

In the case of humans however, death is a way for those left behind to start a new chapter of their lives. Although the event of a death is often terrible, it is a way for people to build resiliency. People learn to live without their close friends. When a family member or friend dies, it is difficult for those left behind to overcome, but if they do, they come out stronger and better equipped to handle future hardships. Just like the deer, each death has a purpose and a reason. It is important to remember that death does not always have to be seen in a negative light and that it is necessary for the growth of others. The things that a person learned during life will be kept alive in the people that knew them. This is how we advance as a species. We learn from the mistakes of others.



The life before a literal breath-taking event is much more important than the significance of death. An individual's life must have more impact on the lives



they touched than the news of their death. That way, their death means more. A well-known street artist by the name of Banksy said, “they say you die twice. One time when you stop breathing and a second time, a bit later, when somebody says your name for the last time.” People need to discover whether they want to die a second time or not. If not, it is up to them to influence the lives of others so their legacy lives through the generations. The bigger the impact people have on the world, the longer their legacy will live on.

My legacy will live on in the photos I take. People will be able to tell what kind of person I was by the beauty I capture in my photos. My photography will convey feelings in people that can’t quite be described with words. The bittersweet tragedy of the death of the deer. That is how I will be remembered.



MJ Sloane is currently enrolled in the Alberta High School of the Fine Arts in Okotoks, Alberta and she focuses her time to photography. Her other photos can be seen on her website at mj-sloane.squarespace.com



Calhan Painted Caves, Colorado

(Making it Rain Pillsbury Blizzard Flour-Shoot)
By Blessings Carnes

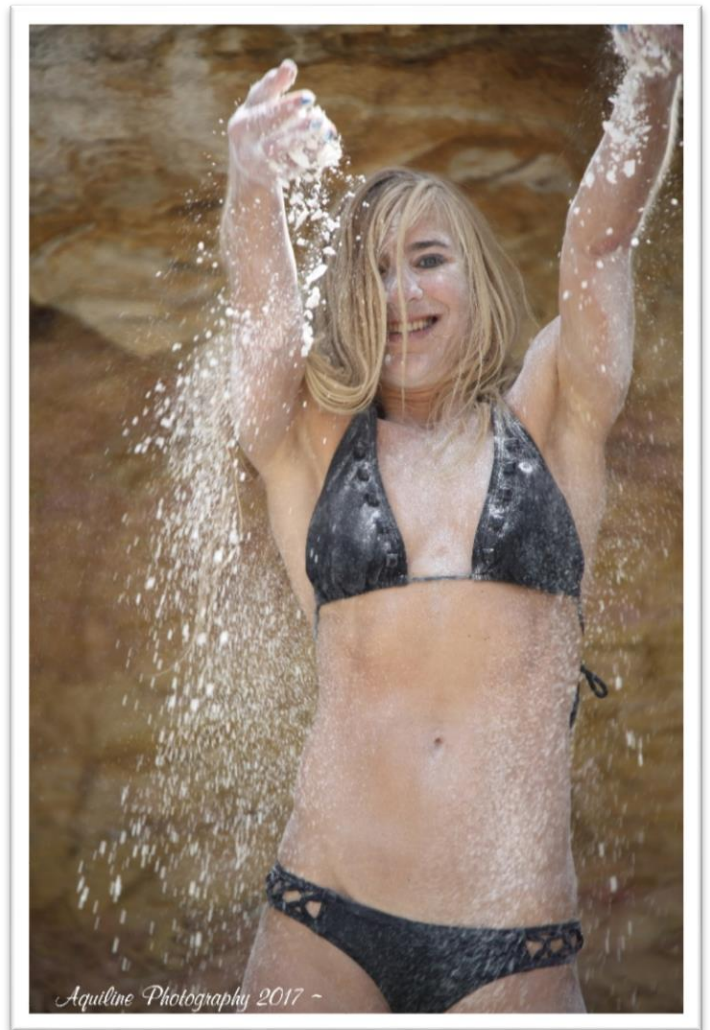
Just as these majestic paint-stripped pastel colored clay formations loomed all around me, my brightly colored swimsuit became the art canvas for the splattered flour that cascaded and trickled all around my body. Billows and puffs of flour whipped and spiraled haphazardly around my frame as the wind hauntingly took control blowing flour in every direction.



As my body became the enamored canvas, I felt as one with the wonderful painted cavern. I let the wind whip my hair and laughed with sheer delight as I threw handfuls of flour all over me, feeling free as a bird and giddy like a child. I let all my worldly tensions flee my thoughts as a rush of energy exuded like the gusting winds, my muscular physique becoming fluid motion as baking flour



blossomed a smoky cloud around the towering beautiful Calhan Colorado painted caves. I let my body move and sway like Egyptian dance, feeling carefree and as if I was superwoman, standing on top of the crusted formations.



This is a great chance to know more about me. Coming from a sheltered hidden upbringing, I learned to take the good out of bad situations and now as an adult have embraced my womanhood and share my artistic toned body in a beautiful manner through the lens of an amazingly skilled photographer amidst majestic park caverns.



I like to think that coming from an extremely sheltered, and repressed life, (my memoir, Daddy was an Exorcist, and Count your Blessings, books) then exploding into this Pillsbury Flour Shoot at a Painted Cavern Park shows extraordinary growth beyond measures.

Check out more of Blessing Carnes work at:
www.amazon.com/author/daddywasanexorcist
www.instagram.com/blessingcarnes
www.modelmayhem.com/carnes

Shoot location was the Paint Mines Interpretive Park in Calhan Colorado. It is in the northeast section of the County near Calhan with approximately 750 acres. The paint mines have evidence of human life as far back as 9,000 years ago. The colorful clays were used by Native Americans. The park features fantastic geological formations including spires and hoodoos that were formed through erosive action that created incised gullies and exposed layers of seienite clay and jasper. The park includes four miles of trails, interpretive signage, and many natural wonders.

I've been busy though and I'm currently writing my second book, "Count your Blessings," shares in detail how I learned through various engaging relationships and experiences how to fully embrace my womanhood in a healthy manner from never having the, "Birds and Bee's talk," to feeling as one among the birds, bees, and painted caves in this wonderfully, superior park. Thanks again for an over the top shoot, you knew how to portray the great shots!





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Body Positivity

By Dan Lee

With the impending return of summer just around the corner, most of us are already thinking of vacations to sunny beaches with cool breezes gently kissing us with the ocean spray. Few, if any are still thinking about all of those “new year, new me” promises, challenges, or outright ultimatums they set for themselves. You know that yearly tradition. It’s like cranberry sauce or awkward family moments on Thanksgiving, or the potential for getting completely hammered on egg nog come the office Christmas party. Wanting to make a change is a natural and expected part of the new year for almost everyone. The problem is in the unrealistic goals and the motivations behind them. Let me explain.

Around the week of Christmas, televisions are full of commercials advertising “medical” weight loss programs and various pieces of exercise equipment endorsed by D list celebrities. Social media and the internet become a buzz in targeted ads for gym memberships and diet pills while every magazine focuses on “looking your best in the new year.” Mind you, this is yet another contradictory campaign launched by sites and ‘zines full of airbrushed, overly tanned, impossibly built models with physiques requiring nearly 40 hours a week in a gym. It’s the message that you’re beautiful the way you are -so long as the way you are is in line with the mold being established by companies who advertise using these same assembly line built models.

It’s this constant campaign of misinformation that leads us to abuse ourselves physically and mentally because, no matter what we do, we’ll never look like the models on T.V. or in the magazines. From a man’s perspective, it can be just as hard to fit into those physical ideals of beauty as it is for a woman. I myself am a 6’ tall ginger with a beard. I also have a beer gut, a receding hairline, and vision so poor that my glasses seem to get thicker every year. I know that I will never be the sort of chiseled Adonis that women swoon over on television or the kind of man who ever appears in an advertisement unless they’re using me as the “before” picture. I work out, mind you because my health is important to me and keeping myself in shape, even if it isn’t the shape

the media or society expects me to be, is equally important. But I also like delicious food and being curled up on the couch with someone I love for a Netflix binge.

There is a body positivity movement that is steadily growing and taking shape online. Models, actors, and regular folks are all coming together to celebrate being who they are and how they are, regardless of what other people think. It’s an entire mindset telling people that you’re okay exactly how you are. There are plenty of people in this movement who are constantly working on themselves, exercising, dieting and changing because they want to. Did you catch that? It isn’t because an article online said that they need to be a certain way. It’s not because those mannequins at the store wear clothes that are ten sizes smaller than what a human being can actually wear. The people who want to change are doing it because they want to, not because they’ve been shamed into it by ads in magazines and on Facebook.

And that should be the message you focus on as you head to the beach, as you lay out in the sun and enjoy the warmth of another summer. You don’t have to fit on the cover of a magazine to be beautiful. You don’t have to hide your tattoos, your scars, or your stretch marks. You can be proud of who you are in your own skin. Take pictures, smile, and enjoy life.

Dan Lee is an author and amateur photographer from Nashville, TN. His fiction has been seen in numerous online zines and publications and links can be found through his blog at



dannooftthedead.wordpress.com



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