



Karen Hutton

Brushstrokes of Creation

Fine art photographer Karen Hutton knew almost from the moment she began walking on this breathtaking planet that she had a purpose, something she stood for and that she wasn't intended to keep to herself.

She still vividly remembers the vision from her early childhood that sparked her lifelong sense of purpose: "I was standing on stage, either speaking or singing. A large column of light streamed down from above, ran down through my head and out through my mouth, hands and mid-section. It poured out into the theater, where it washed over everyone in the audience. Incredibly, it healed them and they

walked out transformed. It wasn't so much about me on a personal level as it was about the power of light."

"Like a heat-seeking missile," Hutton took aim on a course to make this vision a reality.

Hutton was born in Kentfield, California and grew up on a ranch in the wine country of Glen Ellen. Always feeling that her true home was in nature, she spent many of her childhood days roaming the hundreds of idyllic acres surrounding her, which nurtured her growing spirit. She thrived in the hot, dusty summers, drawn to the outdoors and to the heart-pound-



Tethered | Photograph

ing thrills of athletics. She eventually became a gifted horseback rider and figure skater.

But she was never alone in her adventures. Coming from a family of avid photographers—dating back to the early 1900s when the Norwegian side of her family immigrated to the United States and began “photographing everything in sight, especially, and most hilariously, each other”—Hutton always had a camera in her hands. It was her constant companion.

“There wasn’t so much a single moment I decided to become an artist, as there was a growing realization that I was present for these magical moments where the earth expressed herself—and I could capture them,” she muses. “That’s actually how I saw every-

thing around me: as expressions—or dynamic brushstrokes—of creation. They were like the ultimate story, so full of love and an ever-present sense of Awe. I became obsessed with transcribing them into visual artistry.”

Realizing that this “sense of Awe” aligned perfectly with her childhood experience with light, Hutton knew that she was intended to share her vision. Photography felt like the perfect medium. It was a visceral feeling. In high school, she made up her mind to become a professional photographer and began down this path in college. That is, until she discovered that her health prevented her from working with darkroom chemicals.

As Hutton explains, “I had to come to terms with the fact that the dream was done. I wasn’t

willing to pursue it seriously without doing the darkroom work myself: commercial photo labs just never even remotely got close to what I had in mind. A huge part of the vision for each image was completed through my own printmaking process.”

Even though this challenge delayed her journey to pursue it professionally, Hutton never stopped photographing. Her ever-present camera remained with her throughout all of her professional experiences in equestrian

sports, figure skating, dance, acting, and voiceover work.

In 2009, Hutton discovered that she could create the same stunning effects she had created in her film photography prints with a digital camera—and then some. Now working 100% digital through post-production, Hutton shares her vision through meticulously layered images. The lush, rich tones in her color work are infused with the vibrancy she sees in the world and are a tribute to the awe-inspiring



Singularity | Photograph

“brushstrokes of creation,” while her black and white work captures the intricate structure and design inherent in nature.

As she continued to develop a high level of artistic expression and precision, her work began to attract a large following. Millions of viewers have discovered her work through social media, and her prints now grace a variety of home and corporate spaces.

Hutton enjoys working with clients who want to dramatically shift the environment or “change the air in the room” through large prints as well as with those who are looking for the “short-burst inspiration” that comes from smaller sizes.

Though her home base is nestled in the gorgeous Lake Tahoe Region, Hutton has traveled extensively in the U.S. and around the world to photograph the devastating beauty that lives in even the most unexpected places.

The inspiration behind her work, Hutton says, is “the sacredness and intelligence of nature; there’s a quickening I experience when I’m out there. Seeing the world when I travel, experiencing other cultures and all that they’ve created—well, it’s eye-opening to say the least. To me, landscape and travel photography are the perfect complement to one another: nature and human nature all rolled into a great big bundle of Incredible. My biggest

hope? To crack open a door to a sense of Awe, to provide a way for others to experience the profound connection we intrinsically have to Mother Nature, light, and life itself. It’s a message of hope, awe, and empowerment.”

This was the intent behind her creation of “The Artist’s Voice” photography adventure retreats, which she has led in the U.S. and Europe. For Hutton, it’s been a deeply rewarding way to share the process of discovering light, inspiration, and creativity. Learning to

“see differently,” she says, “has a way of spreading throughout a person’s life, creating a new way to see everything. It’s transformational. It’s also giggle-out-loud fun.”

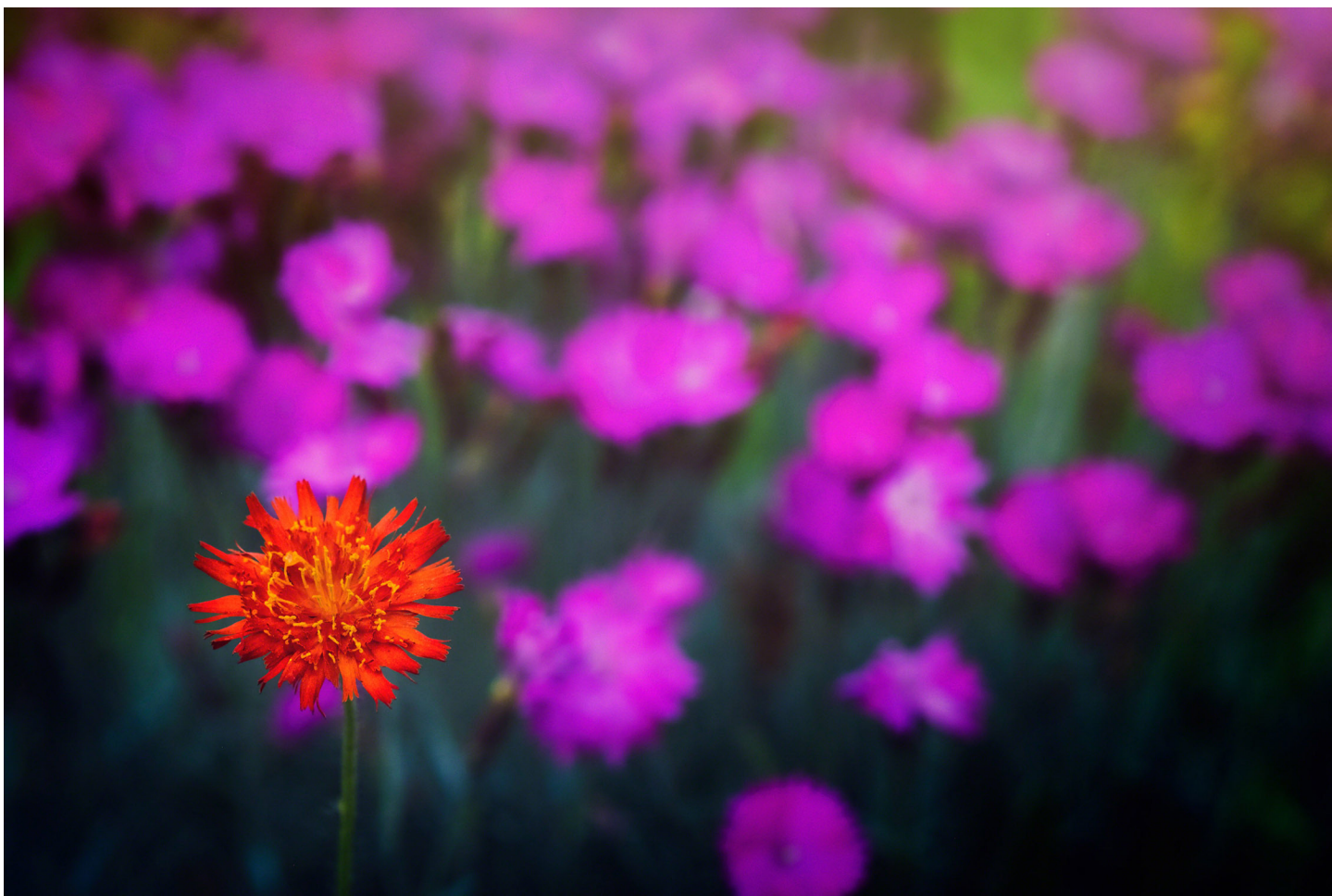
She finds inspiration in the work of master photographers like Ansel

Adams, Edward Weston, Minor White, and Paul Caponigro. And, of course, the old masters of landscape painting, whose “magical use of light” never fails to entrance her.

Hutton’s photography has been featured in exhibitions around the world, from California to New York to Tokyo, in a number of magazines, including Fujilove Magazine and Wild Planet, and in both print and ebooks, including as a contributor for a recent book by photography legend Rick Sammon. Along with her “Artist’s Voice” retreats, she has had the honor of speaking and teaching about photog-



ICU | Photograph



Outstanding | Photograph

raphy through established outlets, including KelbyOne.

Hutton was also featured in the mini documentary “Karen Hutton: Framing the Journey,” created as a one-of-a-kind collaboration with Fujifilm and SmugMug, two of her major partners in the photography world. It is available on her website and YouTube.

When she is not traveling and telling mesmerizing stories through her art, Hutton is often out hiking or snowshoeing—camera in hand—or perhaps reading the works of authors who inspire her to reach new levels of creativity and of thinking outside the box. She also continues with professional voice-over work. To her mind, everything she does

is an extension of her original artistic vision, which springs from her deep and abiding need to share light with the world.

“My mission is to infuse the very air with color, joy, delight and awe,” Hutton says. “To be unapologetic. To BE in the most authentic ways possible. To encourage you to do that too. And to create pieces that inspire, motivate and remind us all that in the entire world, no one can do what YOU do, exactly as you do it. It is your gift.” She adds that “a big part of my god-given purpose is to uplift and empower. I try to embed those feelings into my work, so that they breathe life into the spaces they occupy. Like oxygen for your walls.”

Praise for Karen Hutton's work:

I watched the video you made about the 80mm for Fuji, and when the macro flower shots appeared I almost wept. I thought, yes, this is how God sees a flower. Thank you.

George Beinhorn

Well, you've done it again...another absolutely unbelievably spectacular scene captured with a touch of magic and inspiration only you can convey!

Carol S. Owens

I have said before whether by brush or camera artists like you can see more of the world than mere mortals and can capture it for all to see.

John Bob Bidgood

Karen, there is something so beautiful about the world you see! [...] your art SHOUTS what brings you joy! You don't just have a voice..... You have an audience! People WANT to hear what you have to say because you skipped the short cuts, worked hard and met the right people.... I recognize what I'm looking at!! A Pro by commitment not just choice alone!

Bobby Rosa

Beautiful work. And so compelling.

Marianne Wedell-Wedellsborg

In a field saturated with "photographers" you stand out. Great work!

Randall Steven Osterhube

Your images and stories convey such genuine kindness and peace. I've been enjoying a documentary on Mister (Fred) Rogers this evening, and you remind of him, in spirit.

Tricia Lombardi

Karen, your photography is brilliant. Incredibly artistic. Geniously captivating. World class!

Steve Self

Wonder Poems!

Minoru Kanou

