

WHIMSICAL

TALES OF PORTRAITS
VOL. 2

MAGAZINE

THE AUDACITY EDITION

BLACK AND WHITE PORTRAIT BY
ANDREW COLLIER

WHIMSICALMAG.COM

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR :

‘Whimsical Magazine, Tales Of Portraits...

Whimsical Magazine is a brand new independent bi-monthly publication aiming to highlight and sublimize portrait photography in all its forms, envisioned as work of art, from fashion and beauty portrait, to fine art portrait, passing by black and white portrait. Additionally to awesome and unique editorial portraits, every issue will consist of interviews and articles spotlighting talents, from every part of the world.

Passion, creativity and emotion are our 3 watchwords.

The year 2020 has been unprecedentedly overwhelmingly complex for the whole humanity and times keep on being synonym of a huge upheaval, all the more for creatives all around the world.

Hence, we found relevant to place this January 2021 Edition under the sign of audacity, which is, more than never, necessary for the survival of art and creation in all its forms.

Indeed, we are facing a revolution of the creative sector as a whole and who better than Che Guevara to talk about revolution ? So let's start this January issue with some of his words in mind :

«Passion is needed for any great work, and for the revolution, passion and audacity are required in big doses.»

Have a good read!

Best regards, Sonia'

STEVEN BURTON
(Brooklyn, New-York) :
«PHOTOGRAPHY HAS OPENED THE DOORS
TO MANY PEOPLE'S LIVES
THAT I WOULD OTHERWISE NOT HAVE HAD
THE PRIVILEGE TO MEET.»

Originally from the UK, Steven Burton is a portrait, travel and lifestyle photographer living in Brooklyn, NYC.

It was Steven's desire to travel that initially led him towards a career in photography.

Returning from a solo trip to Tibet in 2001, he sold his first print, while working on the images at a printing studio in NYC.

Since that fateful day, Steven has trained Kung-fu with the Shaolin monks in China, (still walks funny after that experience)!

He has practiced tribal dances in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, drifted on a boat down the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar, and taught gang members in LA to swear with a British accent, all the while honing his skill as a photographer.

Steven has since worked for a variety of editorial and advertising agencies and photographed personal projects for NGO's such as the United Nations, Grass Roots Soccer (South Africa) and Homeboy Industries.

Camera : Canon 5D Mark 4

Lenses : 24-70mm and 70-200mm

Instagram : [@stevenburtonphoto](https://www.instagram.com/stevenburtonphoto)

Regardless of your taste for travels, which initially led you towards a career in photography, your photography work is very eclectic as you practice lifestyle, travel and portrait photography, but also fashion photography, which requires a very different approach.

So how do you make the connection between each category of photography, to lead to only one coherent style?

I consider myself, first and foremost, a portrait photographer.

When I travel, my work is focused mostly on portraits and the same goes for the lifestyle work I do.

I search for reference material and imagery that inspire me and create storyboards, but when I shoot, my lighting and aesthetic take over, giving my work I hope, a coherent style across each genre.

But that being said, if you live in a city like NYC, it is wise to specialize.

What's the biggest learning experience you've had as a photographer and traveler ?

I credit my education to the travels I've done over the years.

Photography has opened the doors to many people's lives that I would otherwise not have had the privilege to meet.

I am somewhat an introverted person except when I am behind a camera.

I believe my experiences as a photographer have given me greater empathy for others.

Travelling always reminds me what an amazing world we live in and how we need to protect and preserve it.

In your daily routine, what are the most useful resources for you to enrich your vision of photography, fashion and, more generally, art?

I must admit that my environment living in NYC is my most useful resource.

I have everything I need here, from world-class museums to the vast variety of eclectic, diverse people from every walk of life. I'm inspired the second I step outside.

Your first book, untitled «Skin deep, looking beyond the tattoos» published with Powerhouse books NYC in 2017, encountered a huge success with collectively over 77 million views and counting on social medias.

It also has been featured internationally on significant news channels around the world, as well as editorial, web and radio platforms and has even been taught in the Manhattan University psychology department and select schools around America.

What inspired you to create this project and how do you explain such a positive reception by the public ?

I had been living in LA for just over a year when a friend of mine, who at that time was working for an NGO called Homeboy Industries, invited me to a documentary screening called «G-dog».

The documentary was about Father Greg Boyle; the founder of Homeboys who helps gangmembers escape gang life and rebuild their lives.

I was so blown away by such powerful and emotional stories that I knew I had to be a part of it in some way.

I was inspired to create a project that would somehow spread awareness of the incredibly meaningful work they do at Homeboy industries.

The documentary touched upon tattoo removal, which is a fundamental part of re-entering into society. As I watched this, I thought to myself,

«I wonder how people would react if I remove the tattoos on photoshop.»

When I returned home, I searched the net to see if anyone had ever removed tattoos off gang members in this way and fortunately had no luck.

I proceeded to borrow random images of gang members from the internet to try a quick tattoo removal using Photoshop to see if the concept would work. The results were powerful.

The next day, I set out to find my subjects. I found a few homeboys and convinced them to let me photograph them after presenting my concept to them directly from my phone.

That's how it began!

