

I have always wanted the ability to walk into a landscape painting, and then, become a part of that world. Paintings by Albert Bierstadt or Thomas Hill invite me into their artwork, begging me to explore their vision of our great wilderness areas. Like the famous painters from the Hudson River School, I too want my viewer to walk into my photographs and explore my world.

When I was younger, I remember being truly spellbound with a particular issue of National Geographic. On the cover, a Galen Rowell photograph of Yosemite rock climbers dangling on the side of Half Dome told a story filled with adventure. Inside, more amazing images displayed a perspective of Yosemite that most people have never seen: beautiful granite landscapes and climbers achieving new milestones in climbing history. A great photograph is truly art.

Several years later, I started exploring photography after my friend and I won \$500 from a San Diego radio contest. With my split of the money, I received my first SLR - a Pentax K1000.

After focusing on my family for many years, I returned to photography after witnessing several photographic events, and later, wondering why I didn't have my camera with me to capture the experience! One event in particular occurred during a bicycling day trip with my family in Fort Bragg. Riding near the ocean, we spied five turkey vultures sunning their bodies on staggered pier pilings. With their wings outstretched towards the sky, the giant birds hovered like avian gargoyles, soaking up the available sun. What made this scene even more intriguing was the mist swirling around their dark bodies. Although I was thrilled to witness this event, I was also disappointed that I couldn't bring this surreal view of nature home with me. I realized that it was time to return to my photography. The following Christmas, my family gave me my first digital SLR, and I haven't looked back since!



I live in Cameron Park, California, with my husband, son, and two cats. We enjoy hiking and camping together, especially in the High Sierra. In the early summer, I volunteer for the Yosemite Conservancy, working in Tuolumne Meadows.

My work has been featured in numerous exhibitions including the *California State Fair*, Sacramento's *KVIE Art Auction*, *Yosemite Renaissance* in Yosemite Valley, and [Nature's Best Photography](#) at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC. For more information, please visit my [home page](#) for current displays of my work.