

*Rick Gustafson*

## ARTIST STATEMENT

The inspiration for my art comes from the satisfaction I experience through self expression. I create images to express my interpretation of the world around me and how it relates to life's experiences. My goal is to be authentic in creating unique abstractions which reveal painterly impressions of my imagination. The ideals of Existentialism and the study of the Impressionist master painters have influence on the imagined space I see through the viewfinder.

The photographic techniques of in-camera blur and selection of painterly subjects inspires my imagination to create these images. I use manually selected shutter speeds for long exposures to explore and create painterly scenes. Much of my work is about crisp morning sunrises, and soft evening sunsets. As an impressionist photographer I look for the edges created by the changing of seasons, lighting, and weather.

The use of in-camera blur techniques allows me to create the blended and vibrant colors of Impressionism. After capturing these painterly photographs, the digital darkroom is used to enhance and abstract the color as well as dodging and burning techniques. Recently I have begun to work with cityscapes, attempting to capture evocative scenery while I explore the human interaction with our world.

To preserve and present this work, I print these images using archival ink pigments on Fine Art cotton rag textured papers.