

PHOTOGRAPHER'S STATEMENT *Penni Webb*

As a little girl I traveled all the time, my father was in the military. We were either overseas or on the road; and I would be in the backseat of the car with my brothers, viewing landscape, license plates and the Thunderbird, my favorite car. This started my trek of traveling on the road and taking pictures of towns, aging buildings & historical objects. I looked at hand painted postcards and found that the images looked more interesting hand painted and was inspired by American kitsch, "The Beauty of Aging". In the 90's, I was hired to be photographer at Western Scenic Studios, an Oakland event & film commercial company that had been around for 100 years. Charlie Chaplin hired this company to paint backdrop scenery for his movies. I was a painter/printer maker who suddenly worked with the camera and loved it. I wanted to get better at shooting pictures and worked with master photographer Bill Davis who had been an assistant to Eliot Porter. Each year I would take a workshop with a master photographer, mainly Phil Borges and Tewfic El Sawy who helped me gain confidence and develop a travel portfolio, World and US based.

The Beauty of Aging photographs were taken on my travels during the last twenty years. I have exhibited my work in the Bay Area; Aspen, Colorado; Taos, New Mexico and Tucson, Arizona. I received my Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Arizona and my Master of Art in Printmaking & Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute. Between 1994 and 1997, I was supported by an art patron to create etchings and monotypes at the Kala Institute in Berkeley. My work has traveled to museums and art centers in Colorado and Arizona supported by the Western Commission for the Arts. In 1998, I was artist in residence at Magnolia Editions in Oakland where I worked with a master printer on lithographs from my photographs.

My latest series, the Beauty of Culture are Hand-tinted photographs from my travels to Bhutan, India, Peru, Bali, Mexico, and Costa Rica. I worked as a mentor for "Bridges to Understanding" on the Navajo Reservation, Ollantaytambo, Peru, Dharmasala, India, Bhutan, and Bali teaching underprivileged children digital photography and computer skills. This foundation is the vision of Phil Borges, International photographer for Care and Amnesty International.

My work can be found in the collections of Crocker Bank in Los Angeles; Blanc & Otus PR; Field Paoli Architects in San Francisco; and Seadden, Arp & Slate Advertising in New York as well as several private collections. In 2008 I had a solo show at Smith Andersen North in San Anselmo, CA. http://smithandersennorth.com/exhibits/past/An_American_Past_Photos_by_Penni_Webb.html. In 2016, Solo Show at Art Works, Downtown, San Rafael, CA

Currently I have a business in Marin County as an Interior Designer, Photographer and Organizer for homes, small businesses and offices. I also work as a part time furniture stylist for Macy's and teach hand-painted photography at Redwood Community College in Larkspur. The

Beauty of Aging & Culture series has been placed in major private collections in the US. My work can be viewed on my website: penniwebbphotography.com & penniwebbdesign.com.



www.penniwebbphotography.com