

LUKE WHITTAKER

Palmer's interest in photography started during her youth in Rochester, New York, also home to Kodak. "..growing up seeing my hometown's name stamped on cameras and all the Kodak buildings everywhere in the city — it was hard not to be interested in photography," she said.



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photos and not computer-generated designs and have just kept creating more since. I only recently thought to start using them as fabric patterns and have been designing bags and clothing with them. They can be more traditional wall hangings or wearable art and I love that. This gave me a whole new creative outlet and a better way to share my work with everyone."

Do you have a favorite subject with your photography?

"Besides my light-painting photography, I'm really into nature and landscape photography. That's honestly one of the main reasons I even moved to Oregon, I love being outdoors and the scenery here is so epic."

How long of an exposure do you typically do?

"The exposure time usually ranges eight seconds to 30 depending on how bright the lights I'm using are and how much line work I want in the image."

Where are you from originally, and how long have you been out here?

"I grew up in Rochester, NY most of my childhood, which is also where Kodak started ages ago, so growing up seeing my hometown's name stamped on cameras and all the Kodak buildings everywhere in the city — it was hard not to be interested in photography. I left to go to college at 18, and got my bachelor's in photography at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh. I loved Pittsburgh so much though; I stayed even after I finished school. I'd probably still be there if I hadn't of fallen in love with the Oregon coast on a trip with my sister. We took the 101 down to the Redwoods and I didn't want to go home, just didn't feel right when I knew such a beautiful place existed. I moved out here a couple months after that first visit and have been exploring Oregon since."

When was it that you came out here with your sister?

"My sister goes to school up in Seattle. I came out to visit and road trip a bit with her in August 2017."

Is there an image that stands out as your favorite?

"My favorite image... that's got to be the hardest question. I take so many pictures and like to always push myself and my skills so my favorite picture is always changing."

Did you have a favorite course or instructor?

"Honestly my favorite photography teacher was my high school photography teacher, Dirk Sipes. He was a tech teacher but had film photography experience and ran the dark room and taught film photo classes. Those classes and that little darkroom are where I really started loving photography. Dirk was a great teacher too, I think he could see my interest even at a young age and was always really helpful. He even lent me his personal DSLR to shoot my first digital pictures on and when I ran out of photography classes junior year, he let me do independent studies so I could keep working at it. After school he even got me my first paid freelance job and would have me come back and talk to his classes. That support was really motivating for me."

What part of the process do you enjoy the most?

"Taking the pictures, it's a bit different than typical light painting where the camera is steady on a tripod and the light is moved. I use stationary light sources, so I move the camera about during the exposure, probably looks a bit silly. I always wonder what people think if they see me in the process."

Do you have a favorite photographer?

"That's another tough one. I love Robert and Shana Parke Harrison's work, especially their older books. They do these really surreal portraits often with props they make or find and they hunt out the most interesting landscapes. In their early work all the surrealness was created in camera with the sets and scenes they put together or they would stack film to layer the scenes and even paint onto the film to create these new worlds in the darkroom. I really respect photographers with that type of creativity and discipline. I loved experimenting with film photography in my studies so their work is very inspiring for me."

How did your interest in photography begin?

"As a kid, I was obsessed with disposable cameras and taking pictures of everything. So once I got to high school and got to start using real cameras and actually learning technique I was pretty certain I'd found my thing."

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