## Artist Statement George Kalantzes

Since becoming a professional landscape photographer in 2014, my images have increasingly focused on more intimate, smaller segments of the broader landscape. I particularly enjoy this process because it imposes a more deliberate, thoughtful approach to photography. One that in my estimation fully enables the creative mind and produces more artistic images as a result. The desire to create this type of imagery is motivated solely out of my personal interest in experiencing and sharing the quiet beauty of nature in uncluttered places.

My photography is done primarily in out of the way places, often well away from others and in settings not easily recognizable to the average person. It is in these places that I can fully concentrate on what I am trying to accomplish photographically. Namely, creating art that is unique and based on my own personal experiences in nature and within the landscapes I frequent. There are many artists and places in the western US that I draw inspiration from. Without question, the quite corners of rural landscapes of the American West are some that speak to me the most.

Well-presented photography is a key characteristic of my work. The image must be unique and decidedly not a duplication or iteration of someone else's vision. I print exclusively on fine art paper following the traditions of (printed) photography. I am not one who favors overly saturated, high gloss duplications of images found in public so often in contemporary photography. My belief is that the redundancy reduces the art form that so many have fought to preserve and hold up historically.

I am a strong believer that artistic endeavors should be motivated and judged by the degree to which the artist presents their own unique vision, interpretations, feelings, and personality. Specifically with the intent of producing art that is personally satisfying. If I am successful at staying true to this vision, I have accomplished what I have set out to achieve both personally and professionally.



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