



on-the-town

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With these hands

naturally

simple

Photographer

Stone Peng captures

the peaceful calm

that surrounds us

Name: Stone Peng

Medium: Fine Art Photography

Hometown: I am not a Michigan native, I grew up in Taiwan.

I was a science teacher at a Junior High School before coming to the United States to study. In 1989, at age 28, I came to Kalamazoo and

Western Michigan University to get a master's degree in environmental science, specializing in hydrogeology. I have lived in Michigan ever since, currently in the Grand Rapids area.

Education and formal training: I do not have any formal training in photography, but I believe I inherited it from my father. He really enjoyed taking pictures. Even though I never owned a camera until age 30, I have found I enjoy it too.

Why I became an artist: I never really thought about being an artist since I was a child. Two years after buying that camera, a Nikon 6006, I showed my pictures to the public. I started to think then that I wanted to share with people what I saw and what I felt as an artist.

I am inspired by: I just want to share my view of nature, those peaceful and calm, infinitely deep and immeasurable feelings. I try to show the Chinese philosophy of life and the aesthetic principles of "less is more" and "empty is full" captured in my images. Using primarily white tones in the background lends a simplicity and ethereal purity to emphasize this in the subject.

Inspiration also comes from: I always pay attention to my surrounding environment. I will use different angles to view the subject again and again. Every landscape has its' own life and different meaning from the next, the emotions change depending on the view's mood. I try to catch these emotional feelings in the landscapes at specific moments. If



photo by dianne carroll burdick

stone peng:
his work can be seen in lowell and grand rapids
in september and october

you put your heart at peace and involve yourself in nature, one can feel that nature is your friend and realize the beauty in nature's life cycle. My inspiration is to let others see the feelings my photos express when taking them.

People like my work because of: The tranquility, simplicity and beautiful essence of my images. People like my style, my view of nature. I hear, "Wow, I never thought that simple subject could make such beautiful photos!"

Your ideal customer is: Anyone who likes calm and peaceful nature will like the beauty and simplicity of my photos.

Dream place to have my work shown at: It would be rewarding to have my work in a fine art museum.

I have participated in ArtPrize: For five years now. "My Michigan Image" is the title for my 2015 exhibit. Included are images representing the Michigan motor industry, Wolverine footwear, apple orchards and recreational activities from the area. Previous year's work may be seen at the ArtPrize website under "Artists" — Stone Peng.

My work can be seen: At Lowell's Fallasburg Fall Festival for the Arts Sept. 19 and 20 at Fallasburg Park, 1124 Fallasburg Road; and at ArtPrize, Sept. 23 – Oct. 11 at the Women's City Club, 254 E. Fulton St. **If you want a good cup of joe:** Take a go-cup out in nature, of course.

— dianne carroll burdick