

Artist Statement



Traveling has become an important part of our creating art. Visiting places we have seen in books, magazines and on TV has fueled our dreams and in 2018 the opportunity to visit Iceland with a group of photographers presented itself. We spent much of the time in the remote and very scenic Westfjordes on the Arctic Ocean, along with other parts of the land of fire and ice.

While I am mostly known for taking black and white photos using my prized Takahara 4x5 field camera, the concern about using this type of equipment in the late fall weather of Iceland and taking 35 pounds of equipment and film through multiple airports was daunting. I opted to use an Olympus OM-D, EM-1 Mark II DSLR camera.

Many of these photos taken have been printed in black and white using the platinum printing process. These images have a greater tonal range and are extremely archival. In addition, some have been produced using combination printing techniques. The *Gum over Platinum* process uses gum Arabic to add color over the platinum print. Another combination print process called *Platinum over Pigment* printing the color image (with black removed) using inkjet printer and then adding the black back using a platinum/palladium emulsion.

Iceland (gallery below) is a selection of landscape and historic architectural photographs, from various locations in Iceland. Most were taken at Djúpavík Herring Factory and other areas in the Westfjords, along the shore of the Arctic Ocean. Seeing and photographing the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights video below) was a bucket list item for my wife and I.

Les Allert