

My grandmother, an artist herself, recognized the artistic voice within me. She paid for art classes and encouraged me at an early age to explore art in its different forms. Looking back, I see that her voice as an artist was overcome by the obligations of her life as a rancher. I know that her influence had a life altering effect on my world view, to take chances – heading into the unknown, being confident that it would shape and strengthen me, how I live my life and the values that I adhere to.

Grandma's backyard in Montana was my playground. The Badlands and the Medicine Rocks with their spiritual significance were imprinted on me. The warm dry breezes, cattle drives, dusty roads, small town life, wide open vistas, and rock sentinels with the moon and stars imprint their beauty on my soul. The Yellowstone River provided agates with hidden gems inside, closely mimicking my journey as an artist. You have to hammer, chisel, and probe to find the hidden treasure that has been hidden for thousands of years.

As a photographic artist, the chances I've taken though out my journey have scarred, shaped and enabled me to see the world in a way that no other can. Only my inner voice can assimilate these and mold them into a new voice with a vocabulary that is more than the sum of its parts. These voices are the tools that I use, the colors, the shapes, the light, the movement, and the way I see and think in pictures.

I began my journey in photography studying and graduating with a BFA from the University of Minnesota with an emphasis in film and still photography. I then earned a BPA degree from Brooks Institute of Photography with an emphasis on Illustrative Photography and Filmmaking. I have studied under countless masters in the field of photography as well as filmmaking.

After graduating from Brooks Institute, I worked on films in both Hawaii and Seattle before returning to Minnesota in 1982 and starting Gross Productions. Where I continued my studies under Shane Hurlbut (Terminator Salvation, Fathers and Daughters) and Stanley Kramer (The Defiant Ones).

I have worked professionally in both video and portrait photography. I have photographed thousands of people, including high school seniors, individual and family portraits and weddings as well as using my background in commercial photography/Video for 3M, Land of Lakes, Litton Paper, Medtronics, Honeywell, Dexon, Plastec Corp, Us West as well as many others. My films include: The Derby Fever Movie, which played on Twin Cities Public Television for several years; and The Amelund Thrashing Show. I have also produced videos for the Peace Corp, traveling to Africa to promote the Corp's work in third world countries. Pine County Jail Orientation video, which has saved the county thousands of man hours. Pine Ridge little house project for the housing shortage crisis. Pine County Meth Task Force, that played in local theaters. G4S a fire detection promo that played in trade shows country wide. Pine City High School Career Choice interactive video that was available in schools though out Pine County. Pine City Chamber Tourism videos. Pine City Art Center Promotional video. Bethany Global College, Beyond Limits program, promotional videos. And many videos for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. I produced a video for Hydro Smart Corporation that saved their trouble shooting team hundreds of man hours and went on to be the highest rated video on YOUTUBE in its category.

Observing life through a mind that imprints its observations in pictures, I can understand my gravitation to the other influences early in my career. Taking classes with Ansel Adams and Pete Turner added another layer in the wide vista view of my world: Ansel Adams and his wide vistas and black and white land forms; Pete Turner with his graphic eye with bold colors shouting out, "this image was meant to be"; Jerry Uelsmann and his innovative use of multiple images that crafts a new image that is more than the sum of its parts, that transcends the surface reality; and Duane Michals who challenged the accepted aesthetics of what a photograph should be.

As I matured as an artist working and photographing people, I took classes with many different artists observing the how and why of their voice influencing their choices. People like Gary Box and his innovative take on High School Senior Photography. Fuzzy Duenkel on how he carefully chooses his backgrounds, they can be anywhere. Tim Kelly his approach to high end portraiture. Ann Monteith on how to take control of your business.

Tom McDonald, one of the most celebrated photographers in the Professional Photographers of America. I have to finish with the instructor that had the biggest influence on me. Michael Glen Taylor, a master of the Photographic art of Portraiture. He enabled me to see light, like a Flash Bulb was ignited and I could finally see light, not just understand the effects it has on all life, but have a grasp of knowing that no matter what situation I'm in I can use the existing light to light a subject professionally without any photographic lighting tools. When I added that puzzle piece, I knew that adding that voice to my narrative was key for my artist development.

As I branched out to Commercial photography some of the teachers I studied under include, Will Crockett with his technical expertise of light and color and Dean Collins with his in-depth study of light in its different forms.

My adventure into motion pictures came about by one of my scars of life, redirecting my original career path as an illustrative photographer. A path into the unknown, adding to my voice but a whole new voice with all its complexities.

My journey has enabled me to have a successful photographic/video business, Gross Productions, for most of my adult life. Now my new endeavor, Dellg, allows for a creative outlet that gives me the freedom to explore my inner voice in new way. I let all the information I've ingested: color, light, movement, design, composition, escape. Along with my inner voice prodding me to let it tell the world that it is time to show what has been hidden in the depths for my entire life. All the voices of my inner self come into the light and shout for joy. After all these years I can explore who I am as an artist. The puzzle pieces are uniting in the form of abstract digital photographic works of art that have a life and purpose that transcend whatever I intended to create.