

PROLIFIC

QUARTERLY

Exclusive Interview with Photographer Madralynn Hays

What's your background?

I am a dreamer at heart. I have been homeless a few times. Have put myself through college three times. And raised two amazing people on my own. I am a true believer that no matter what you can always reach for the stars and achieve your dreams. I have a paralegal background and worked in numerous law offices until 2009 when I found the job that will always have my heart. Being able to work alongside people with cognitive brain disabilities was the most amazing job I have ever had. When we left Morro Bay, leaving my job was one of the hardest things I had to do. Being able to pick up my camera and put my focus on something else is what had gotten me through some tough times in my life.

So, did you study photography in school?

I took photography in high school and loved it. I would take photos of my friends and nature. Life got busy and photography got put on the back burner. In 2006, I moved to Morro Bay, CA and picked up a camera again and started shooting wild life. I captured everything I possibly could. Sitting in the bay photographing the sea otters was one of my favorite things to do. Hence my business name "Otter Love Photography". In 2011, I left Morro Bay and headed back to my home town. There I started photographing people. But, it was not until we moved to Dayton, NV that my passion for taking people and wild life photographs came alive.

I have spent the past two years pushing myself to get to where I want to be in my photography journey. You will often times find me in my car with a model taking a road trip in the middle of nowhere to get the perfect shot. I never imagined this would be my job but, more than that it is such a joy to be able to create beautiful art with such amazing people.

Yes, I studied fine art photography at The Academy of Art University in San Francisco and graduated in May with a Bachelor's Degree.

Tell us about your first printed picture.

My first photograph that was printed was a water session that I did in 2015. It was one of the first water sessions that I did. There is a small lake in the Washoe Valley, NV that has become one of my favorite places to shoot. The location offers an array of backgrounds to choose from. And the wild life there is beautiful as well.

What's your favorite camera to work with and why?

I love my Canon 6d. It has been a wonderful upgrade from a Canon XSi which was my first dsir. I hope to upgrade again soon.

What has been your most challenging project to date and why?

I just completed a year and half project called "Beauty in the Desert". I photographed over a hundred people in the same location over the course of a year. Each person had either overcome something traumatic in their lives, is going through something, or knows someone that is. It was very inspiring to see these wonderful people in such a despairing setting at times. Be photographed and the images make their beauty come alive. I am currently in the process of piecing their stories and images together in a book.

Where are you based?

I am based in Dayton, NV which in about 45 minutes outside of Reno. We will be relocating to Winnemucca next year. I travel all over Nevada, California, Utah, Oregon, and Idaho.

Where can people follow your work?

www.OtterLovePhotography.com

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