

Nominee: Shane Knight

Nominee's Website: <http://www.shaneknight.com>

Shane Knight has elevated the sophistication of art in Flagstaff. Both his photography and his gallery are untouchable. He will inspire plenty of imitators, but none will ever be as classy, true, or visionary as him.

“One of the first pieces that caught my eye was *Aspen Horse*. The horse is making eye contact with its viewer while resting its head near a tree. The texture on the tree creates a beautiful repetitive pattern with the horse’s mane throughout the piece. There is perfect balance between the values of light and dark, which create a sense of harmony in the piece. The emphasis lies at the top left of the photo where the horse’s eye is, meeting the rules of the rule of thirds. Overall, I am really captivated by this piece because of the subtly beauty found in the textures and the inviting eye contact made with this fantastic creature.

“Next I found a piece called *Running Dream*. This photograph is more dreamlike and hazy than the detailed one mentioned before in the preceding paragraph. It is well named because it gives the viewer a sense of a fading memory of a powerful yet beautiful black horse running away. There is almost a fear to blink for the image may disappear. The balance in values is subtle and movement is elegant. Ultimately, I feel this is a very successful peace. I could look at it all day and never grow weary of it. It leaves me in a whimsical, dream-like state, an escape from the real-world stresses.

“Lastly, another intriguing piece was *The Dance*. The reason this one caught my eye was the overall movement captured. I believe horses have the most beautiful, graceful, and magnificent movement, it’s mesmerizing and rhythmic. This photograph captures a brown and white pinto horse in mid canter, almost in a prancing, jumping motion as if dancing. There is a repetition of curves found throughout the photo creating rhythm. Overall, I feel this piece gives a playful, up-lifting feeling and is quite gorgeous when the viewer allows themselves the time to enjoy it’s subtle beauties.” – Christine Dongell

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I began my love and hate relationship with photography 21 years ago when I purchased a couple of used lenses at a garage sale. The first time I looked through the viewfinder of my first SLR, I fell in LOVE. After being born and raised in Hays, Kansas, I spent many years traveling and working various jobs including photo labs, wedding and studio photography, and wrangling horses. I now find myself completely devoted to the art of western and landscape photography. After years of capturing images, I began to see things differently, all the time. I go

to bed at night and wake up every morning with images on my mind. I am not sure if is a curse or a blessing, but I thank Mother Nature everyday for all her splendor and showing me her best to photograph. There is nothing I love more than the art of photography, except my family and the loves of my life, Heather and little Austin.....*but that is another **love** story.*

*In the busy and complex world we all live in today, we sometimes forget to appreciate the gifts of Mother Nature and notice the beautiful things around us. I try very hard to capture the beauty and simplicity of nature we take for granted everyday. May my photography help you see how we should never complicate the simple things.*





