

To Thine Own Self Be True – NOT

By Blair Evan Ball

For most of us photographers we develop a passion and sometimes predictable style in the subjects and categories we photograph, and I'm no exception. This in and of itself is not necessarily good or bad. It does give one a comfort in doing so, it does allow for improvement, but does it allow us to experience and grow? Does it allow us to be the best we can be? Possibly.

Many times someone will pursue some avenue of passion only to discover their true and unique talents in another. Ansel Adams first passion was trying to play the piano, which his parents purchased in 1925 when he was 23. Two years later he saw his first photograph and then went on to pursue photography, however one of his first success's came in selling his commercial portfolio...shooting wealthy patrons who would later buy his landscape images.

Here is a challenge as we approach 2010. Let's all step out of our comfort zone...explore new photographic categories, expand our reach, pretty soon the uncomfortable may become the comfortable. Who knows...you're new found style may surprise you and many of your fellow photographers.

If you shoot nature, shoot portraits. If you shoot candid, shoot landscape, if you shoot macros, shoot black & white. Step out...broaden your horizons and delve into the uncomfortable. There are many good photographers in this club who are willing to share with you their knowledge and expertise in an area you may lack knowledge in. Learn...grow...give back...challenge yourself this year to the uncomfortable.

Let it see where it takes you. It might take you into a whole new direction you never dreamed of following; then again it might bring you back full circle. One thing is for sure you will never know until you try. So be determined this year to do the uncomfortable. To Thine Own Self Be True – NOT this year!