



## Bruce Soifer

### *Photography*

#### **How did you come to be an artist?**

I came to art when I was in high school and could express myself through drawing and painting. However, I didn't think of myself as an artist until someone called me one at a display of art my senior year.

#### **How did you come to select the work you are exhibiting?**

My first piece, "Sunrise Over Lamar Valley," was a very powerful moment for me that I was fortunate to capture. Driving in the dark before the sunrise, the first rays of the sun hit the sky, illuminating the unique after the night's storm cloud formation. I made our guide stop the vehicle. I grabbed my infrared camera, set up the tripod, and while I was doing that, the bison came over the ridge not more than 35 feet from me. I needed to take two frames to capture all three of the bison.

The second piece that I chose is a "Portrait of Alison," capturing her pensive mood at the beginning of our photo session. There is more to portraiture than just snapping a shutter and being able to capture that deeper self of a person is the goal.

The last image I picked, "TORA-TORA-TORA," of the war birds was a particular challenge for me that I was able to accomplish, capturing three war birds with a slow shutter speed to see propeller blur and keeping the planes in sharp focus while hand-holding the camera.

#### **How does the work you are exhibiting fit into your Jewish journey?**

The Jewish religion is living religion, and being raised Jewish I have the sight of looking at the world through those principals and ideas, seeking out the joy and beauty in this world G-d created, and sharing it that so that anyone who sees my work may come to appreciate the world that they are living in. Whether it is in nature, man-made, or in a portrait, there is art everywhere.

#### **Biography**

I am an artist and photographer; I have the eye of a painter, the mind of a camera, and the heart of an elephant.

My passion is to capture the creation of art, whatever form it may come from, nature, man, or woman. It could be a painter creating on a canvas, or a sculptor shaping a clump of clay from their mind's eye. A dancer leaping across the stage with grace and strength, maybe a conductor directing an orchestra, interpreting the score of a composer, the moment a musician creating his or her music moves us to sing and dance, or maybe cry or laugh. The magic of the sunrise and sunset, or the mystique of the clouds interacting with sun. These fleeting moments of creation are what I strive to capture with my camera - their passion, joy, frustration, agony, and the beauty of it all.

Light has been the driving force in my art. I observe the direction it comes from, the color, the way it is reflected off different surfaces, or how it passes through materials, and the shadows it creates to show texture. I like to print on different materials, matching the image captured to what fits best.

Photographers are the history keepers; we capture a moment in time and preserve it for the future generations. That explains my passion for photo restoration, as I'm assisting the original photographer to extend his/her vision and the memories they hold for generations to come.

A growing fascination with photography encouraged me to learn and gain skills via books, periodicals, seminars, online classes and other media.