

INTERVIEW WITH
SONNY HAMAUCHI

PHOTOGRAPHER,
SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY, USA



EYE EYE EYE PHOTO MAGAZINE



The second issue of our magazine takes you to a journey to the marvellous pictorial world of Sonny Hamouchi.

Her photos have a purpose. Always.

To tell us a story,

to show us more than we might see at the first glance,

to sharing her feeling of the moment or just simply

to reminding us of the beauty of the world.

Without any further ado, please enjoy our interview with Shaina Hamouchi.

YOURS TRULY

Stefan Cimer

EDITOR

BY STEFAN CIMER

HELLO SONNY, WE ARE VERY HONORED TO GET YOUR INTERVIEW FOR OUR FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHER FORMAT!

PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU, TO BEGIN WITH.

I AM A SELF TAUGHT PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO LIKES TO TAKE PICTURES OF LANDSCAPES, SEASCAPES, ARCHITECTURE AND SOME STREET PHOTOGRAPHY.



THIS WAS TAKEN AT A MARINA IN AVALON, NJ WITH A VERY SERIOUS IMPENDING STORM COMING. I WAS TRYING TO GET OFF THE ISLAND TO GET HOME AND PASSED THIS AND HAD TO GET OUT TO TAKE A PICTURE. LOOK AT THE BOATS IN THE DISTANCE AND SEE HOW HIGH THEY ARE IN THE WATER. THEY ARE USUALLY ABOUT 2 FEET LOWER. (SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)

COULD YOU SHARE WITH US HOW YOU FIRST BECAME INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY?

PHOTOGRAPHY IS A PASSION THAT I HAVE AND IT ENABLES ME TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT THE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT I THINK ARE BEAUTIFUL.



WHAT EQUIPMENT ARE YOU USING NOW AND WITH WHAT DID YOU GET STARTED?

I WAS GIVEN A CAMERA FOR A BIRTHDAY GIFT MANY YEARS AGO... IT WAS A MARINDA. I USED IT FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND THEN STOPPED TAKING PICTURES FOR SOME REASONS.

YEARS LATER, I WAS TAKING A VACATION TO HAWAII, I REALIZED THAT I COULDN'T GO AND NOT TAKE PICTURES. SO I PURCHASED A DISPOSABLE CAMERA.

BACK FROM HAWAII, I STARTED WITH A CANON CAMERA AND WHEN DIGITAL CAME AROUND I HAD A CANON 10D, A 7D (WHICH IS A GREAT CAMERA) A 6D AND THE CANON 5D MARK III. I HAVE SINCE GONE DOWN TO JUST THE 5D.

THIS IS ON THE CORNER OF 3RD AND SOUTH AND SOUTH STREET GOES FOR MANY BLOCKS AND HAS GONE THROUGH MANY CHANGES. IT USED TO BE AN OLD STREET THAT JUST HAD REGULAR SHOPS ON IT AND THEN WHEN I FIRST MOVED TO PHILADELPHIA IT WAS THE HOTTEST STREET GOING WITH ALL THE NEW RESTAURANTS AND STORES. IT WAS GREAT AND MOBBED EVERY DAY AND NIGHT. THEN IT SORT OF GOT NOT SO GREAT WITH GANGS RUNNING THE STREETS AND ROBBING PEOPLE BUT AS EVERYTHING IT HAS TURNED ITSELF AROUND AGAIN AND IS DOING GREAT WITH MANY RESTAURANTS AND ALL THE SIDE STREETS HAVE THINGS ALSO. HOWEVER, THIS BUILDING BECAME A BAR FOR AWHILE AND DIDN'T DO WELL. (SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)



BY STEFAN CIMER

**SEEING YOUR REMARKABLE
WORK, I'M CURIOUS WHERE
YOUR CREATIVITY COMES
FROM?**

**I HAVE DONE OTHER
CREATIVE THINGS IN MY LIFE
BUT I HONESTLY CAN'T TELL
YOU WHERE IT CAME FROM...**

**IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GO OUT
ONE DAY AND BUY IT
AT THE STORE.**

**MOSTLY I THINK AS A
PERSON YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN THINGS AND
THEN YOU FIND OUT THAT
YOU CAN REALLY DO THOSE
THINGS THAT YOU LIKE AND
THEN PEOPLE SAY YOU ARE
CREATIVE.**

**I ALSO THINK CREATIVITY IS
SOMETHING YOU HAVE OR
YOU DON'T.
YOU CANNOT BECOME
CREATIVE.**



(SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)

BY STEFAN CIMER

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK FLOW FROM THE POINT YOU FIRST STEP INTO THE SCENE UNTIL YOU SHOWCASE THE DEVELOPED PICTURE?

I USUALLY DO NOT PLAN WHAT I AM GOING TO TAKE PICTURES OF, SO I DO NOT HAVE A “STEP INTO THE SCENE” ROUTINE. I MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA OF AN AREA THAT I WANT TO CHECK OUT. THE ONE THING I DO NOT DO IS MANUFACTURE A PICTURE.



THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE “HIGH SPEED” LINE TRAIN THAT GOES FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW JERSEY AND VICE VERSA. I WAS UP ON THE BRIDGE LEANING OVER AND WAITED FOR A TRAIN TO COME THROUGH AND THIS WAS THE RESULT.(SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)

I PERMANENTLY HAVE A MONO-POD AND TRIPOD IN MY CAR ALTHOUGH MANY TIMES I AM IN SITUATIONS WHERE I CANNOT USE THEM SO I HAVE BECOME VERY PROFICIENT AT TAKING HAND HELD SHOTS. AT HOME I PUT THE PICTURES IN IPHOTO SO I CAN SEE WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE THEN I PICK THE PHOTOS I REALLY LIKE AND WORK ON THOSE IN PHOTOSHOP. I DO NOT DO A LOT OF EDITING BECAUSE I AM IN CONFLICT WITH BEING A PHOTOGRAPHER OR A DIGITAL ARTIST. I VERY RARELY CROP A SHOT AFTER I UPLOAD IT. WHAT I WANT THE PICTURE TO BE IS WHAT I SEE IN THE VIEWFINDER.

I ALWAYS STORE MY PHOTOS IN AN EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE AS I LOST ABOUT 3 YEARS OF PICTURES. I LEARNED MY LESSON.

BY STEFAN CIMER

HAS YOUR STYLE OF SHOOTING CHANGED SINCE YOU FIRST STARTED?

WELL, I AM A SELF TAUGHT PHOTOGRAPHER SO IN THE BEGINNING I PROBABLY DID VERY WRONG THINGS.

I AM MUCH BETTER ABOUT CHECKING THINGS. LIKE EVERYTHING IN THE SCENE BEFORE PRESSING THE SHUTTER.

BUT I WOULDN'T SAY THAT MY STYLE CHANGED.



(SONNYHAMAUCHI ©)

ARE THERE ANY PHOTOGRAPHER WHO TOOK INFLUENCE ON YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK AND STYLE?

WELL, I HAVE READ SO MANY BOOKS AND LOOKED AT SO MANY PICTURES IN MY LIFETIME THAT OF COURSE I SAW THINGS THAT INFLUENCED ME. THERE ARE STILL THINGS THAT I HAVE NOT TRIED YET AND I WILL DO THEM AT SOME POINT, LIKE LONG EXPOSURE PHOTOGRAPHY. I'M READING UP ON THEM AND WATCHING THINGS ON YOUTUBE ABOUT THEM.

BY STEFAN CIMER

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS YOU HAVE LEARNED BY DOING PHOTOGRAPHY SO FAR?

THAT THERE ARE FRIENDLY PEOPLE ALL OVER WHO WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING OR WHY. THEY ARE SO APPRECIATIVE IF YOU TALK TO THEM ESPECIALLY IF YOUR ARE TAKING PICTURES OF THEIR LAND. I OFTEN TAKE THEIR ADDRESS AND SEND THEM A PRINT AND GET INVITED MOST TIMES TO GO ON THEIR PROPERTY WHENEVER I WANT TO.



I TOOK THIS ONE FALL DAY AND IT WAS PERFECT. I HAVE BEEN BACK TO THAT SPOT MANY TIMES AND HAVE NEVER CAPTURED ANYTHING LIKE THIS EVER AGAIN. THE DIVING DOCK IS NOT ALL OVER THE PLACE AND IT JUST DOESN'T LOOK THE SAME. (SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)



SAVANAH STREET. SAVANNAH, GEORGIA IS A VERY POPULAR PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES TO VISIT. (SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)



HORSE AT NEW FARM, MARLTON, NEW JERSEY. (SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)

BY STEFAN GIMER

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL A NEWCOMER WHO ASKS FOR YOUR ADVICE ON HOW TO START?

I WOULD TELL THEM THAT THE CAMERA THEY USE TO START WITH DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THE MOST PROFESSIONAL ONE.

AS A BEGINNER YOU DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO USE ALL THE

FUNCTIONS. IT TOOK ME YEARS TO BECOME PROFICIENT WITH MY CAMERA. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO HAVE A SENSE OF COMPOSITION. THAT IS NEEDED BEFORE ALL OF THE OTHER TECHNICAL STUFF. YOU CAN BE AS TECHNICAL AS YOU WANT BUT IF YOU DON'T KNOW COMPOSITION YOUR PICTURE WILL SUFFER.



CHAIR BY THE TIDEWATER / PROVINGETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.
(SONNY HAMAUCHI ©)

BY STEFAN CIMER



SONNY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR HAVING YOUR PRECIOUS TIME AND YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT AND BEHIND YOUR FANTASTIC WORK.

PLEASE VISIT SHAINA'S GREAT HOMEPAGE AND ENJOY HER BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS AT [WWW.SHOTZBYSONN.COM](http://www.shotzbysonn.com)

EDITORIAL NOTICE:

PUBLISHING, LAYOUT AND CONCEPTION: STEFAN CIMER

EDITOR: ELLA CIMER

LOGO DESIGN: ANDREAS BURGHARDT

COPYRIGHT BY STEFAN CIMER

SONNY HAMOUCHI (PHOTOGRAPHY) ©

PHONE: +43 680 214 72 17

E-MAIL: [EYE.PHOTOMAGAZINE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:eye.photomagazine@gmail.com)

EYE - MAGAZINE: [HTTP://EYE-PHOTOMAGAZINE.WEEBLY.COM](http://eye-photomagazine.weebly.com)

FACEBOOK: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EYE.PHOTOMAGAZINE](http://www.facebook.com/eye.photomagazine)