

A few years ago, the Romanian Distribution Committee website was emphasizing the fact that the author of the lines below is caressing us with soulful words (about the beauty of the National Museum Complex ASTRA from Dumbrava Sibiului, a region enjoying a large international recognition), brings joy to our hearts, displaying images expressing a profound artistic feeling, challenging our mind and feelings to a reflection on spiritual regeneration through love for the beauty, through education and culture. Then, at the beginning of Spring 2012, we enjoyed a “March in Herastrau” thanks to the flowing of a big part of the warmth of the author into the Herastrau park, where it merged with nature warmth and to that of human nature highlighted in different instances. **The result? A special kind of music produced by caressed strings so as not to disturb life awakening which is characteristic to the season, and by the eyes feeding on the power of the inside music of each person and all of the participants in this show of the time that passes and comes in spite of times. We see therefore remarkable evolutions of the brand “Gabriela Alba”, confirming the words of Andre Maurois: “If you create a habit, you create a character. If you create a character, you create a destiny.”**

Photography as a Spiritual Path

Gabriela Alba

Ever since I was a little child, I have been fascinated by visual image, shapes and colors. I used to draw and paint instead of playing like most of the other children. But then, as I grew older, I lost my way for awhile. I studied economy, PR, psychology, I worked at a travel agency... Until four years ago, at 27 years old, when a providential meeting with a professional photographer mirrored the artistic side of my soul and revealed it to myself again. I started to study photography, not as much as a hobby, but as a spiritual path or as a rebirth process. One of the most impressive learning experiences was during the classes held by the Society of Wedding and Portraiture Photographers, in London, at the beginning of 2012.

Seeing deeper behind the shape

Although I haven't been painting for many years, I wouldn't say I quit painting, but I have given it a dynamic form. I found out the paradox that immortalizing the moment makes me live in the present with great intensity. I also feel that the lens is a gate to my subjects' inner world, as now I can see deeper behind the shape.

When I photograph people, I enjoy connecting to their souls and immortalize the straight and powerful message of their natural emotions. I do not like to direct them much, for I prefer being a discreet witness of their intimate states. This is why some of my favorite subjects are the artists on stage and children.

Architecture photography reminds me of my old passion - painting. I dive my mind into abstract visual bliss when I am in front of beautiful geometric patterns and harmonic shapes.

... „Getting closer to the true meaning of things”

The artist that inspires me the most is not a photographer or a painter, but the Romanian genius of sculpture, Constantin Brancusi. I do believe that „The reason for which artists exist is revealing the beauty of the world” and „Simplicity is not a goal in art, but they reach it spontaneously while getting closer to the true meaning of things”(C. Brancusi).

A dear photo of mine represents one of the best Romanian violinists, Alexandru Tomescu, while playing a Caprice by Paganini. The image was selected within the „Live the Art to the Maximum” contest organized by the cultural site artactmagazine.ro to take part of a double group exhibition, in autumn 2012 , at Casa Matei in Cluj-Napoca city and at the Odeon Art Gallery in Bucharest. I am proud that Alexandru Tomescu announced he might be present there to support me.

Until the exhibition, you are more than welcome on my website: www.gabriela-alba.ro .