

An 'artist statement' ... What is that? Is it what I do? How I do it? Why I do it? Honestly ...

I dance in the dark with a solitary flower, soft music playing in the background, and a camera in my hands - lost in subtle light and vibrant translucent color with my emotions. This can go on for hours, which sometimes results in my flower allowing me to reveal its essence and share it with my friends. That's what I do. They call it Macro Fine Art Photography. I call it 'The Dance.'

How do I do it?

I literally dance - moving around my darkened studio with no lights except a small pin light or two which I carefully position in and around my flower, placed against a black cloth backdrop. With low light many of my exposures are very long (upwards of 6 to 10 seconds), requiring a tripod and special camera handling. It takes a lot of patience to capture the essence I'm looking for. It's not uncommon for me to take 50+ exposures over a 2 to 3 hour period for a single final photograph and all too often, my flower refuses to cooperate at all.

Finally - and most importantly - why do I do what I do?

The most important reason is to live - literally! Challenged with Bipolar disorder, I feel blessed (and cursed) as this disease allows me to experience higher highs yet lower lows than most people. The high periods provide me with incredible opportunities of energy and creativity. While experiencing the low, depressive cycles, it's everything I can do to hold on to sanity, trapped within my mind. Often, the camera is a shaft of light in the dark, a path of truth to beauty and joy in a world of inner lies that allows me a voice to share my beautiful vision with others and break this mental choke hold. To me, photography = life.

I do hope that you enjoy my photographs. Please help me grow my career and spread the word if you like my work.

Louie Rochon