

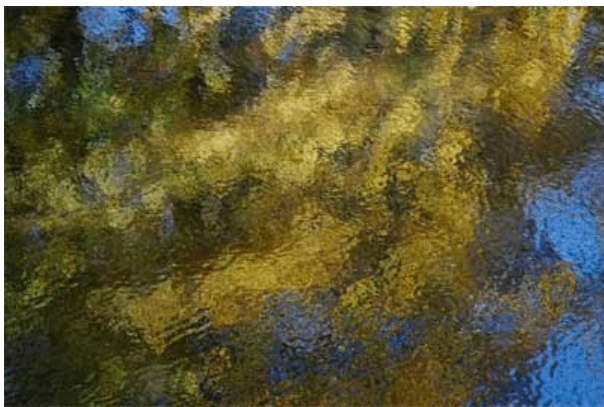


VINEETA PRASAD

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On the day I was born, my dad celebrated by running out and buying a camera. As the first born, it seemed that I was always in front of the camera whether I liked it or not. I didn't realize it then, but I had a great vantage point. I would just get impatient holding the smile while my dad fiddled.

We traveled a lot when I was a kid, and went on some pretty great family vacations [are we there yet?], but my dad would always have his camera with him even if we were just going over to a cousin's house for a barbecue. I was still pretty young when I began asking if I could take some pictures. I realized later that his cameras were expensive [Zeiss Ikon, Nikon] but he never said no. He patiently showed me what all the dials, meters and controls were for, and got pretty agitated when I just snapped the shot without the requisite amount of deliberation [a habit I have never broken]. It was always fun to see the slides and argue over who took the 'good' ones once the roll was developed.



I was around 22 when my dad bought me my first camera – a Nikon FE. It wasn't even my birthday. Well, this manual camera has an automatic mode – I could just snap the shot! But it seemed I had inherited my dad's curiosity and had become pretty good at fiddling with the controls. Our family still traveled a lot – together and separately – and I, too, always had my camera with me, learning from my mistakes as I went along. My dad thought every shot I took was great.



While I began shooting slide film, I lost interest in that after my first thousand or so and began shooting prints. Now I'm really grateful for digital media - it's not the immediacy of the image that interests me so much - looking at it on that display is frustrating at best, and making a decision on whether to keep the shot or discard it based on an image that small seems impulsive even to me - it's that storage is so much simpler, and sharing images becomes a joy.

When I bought my digital SLR – the Nikon D70, the first picture I took with it was of my dad.

Vineeta Prasad

Additional Images by Vineeta...

New Zealand



Monterey



Saguaro



Untitled



My Girl



My Backyard



We're Cold



Newtown Crossing



Marco Island



Untitled



Untitled

