

Personal Statement: Don Stein
The Art of Medicine
Orlando Florida
October, 2017



Photography has been an interest of mine since I got my first Kodak back in the 1950's. Like most people back then, I just took pictures of friends, family and mostly postcard scenes of what little travel I did at the time. While I was doing my post-doctoral Fellowship in neuroscience at MIT, I was able to take some courses from Minor White and Edwin Land on color and light, and they really changed my thinking about photography. Back then, I had no money to buy a serious camera. When I got my first job, I bought a Nikon Nikkormat SLR camera from a friend. I still have it! And it still works!

Now, with digital photography it's all so different. With today's new cameras and smart phones, it is possible to take wonderful pictures with exquisite color and detail, but focus on reproducing the world around me is not quite for me. In my work as a brain research scientist, I have to spend every moment of my working day worrying about the tiniest details and vouching for the complete and replicable accuracy of everything I do. This kind of precision and detail is the last thing I want to bring home at the end of the day. Abstract, minimalist art is what I love best.

So what *are* my intentions? *Imagining*, is what we do all the time when we create an image in our mind's eye. Much of my abstract photography is all about cars in one way or another, but you won't see much of anything resembling one in my portfolio. Before I take a shot, what I ask myself is, "what is the minimum amount of detail I need from an image to create an esthetic form or color? Does it have to be something resembling a specific object that someone can recognize? Does it have to be in focus? Is it really all that important to know what something is ...or can you just imagine what it might mean to you?" Image and imagine. It's not a coincidence that the two words are so similar.

I'm very honored to be included in the "Art of Medicine" show in Orlando. My image, "at the Edge of the Galaxy", comes from a collection I call "The Art of the Autograph". I'm honored that any proceeds from the sale of my art will go to help patients and further research on brain injury.. Other examples of my photography can be seen at: www.donstein.smugmug.com.

Recent shows: Sandpiper Gallery Polson, Montana, Collage Gallery of Fine Art, Bigfork, Montana, Emory University Faculty Art show, Artist's Atelier Atlanta, Georgia.