

# Tony Johnson

Photographer, Cheboygan, MI



Coming of age in Houston in the late 70s and early 80s gave me a wonderful opportunity for nitty gritty, down and dirty street photography. I met my mentor George Krause, a Guggenheim fellow at the University of Houston. George introduced me to the world of fine art photography. Countless hours in the dark room and a

liberal dose of counter-culture helped me develop a personal style, a style born in the street, influenced by Arbus and Winogrand, with a whimsical touch of Krause. A group of early images were featured in the book "Collision: The Contemporary Arts Scene in Houston, 1972–1985", by Peter Gershon.

I studied journalism and shot anything that would give me a press pass or a paycheck: sports, fashion, concerts, rodeos, horse shows, portraits. Learning to tell a story inside the four corners of a photo became my obsession. In 1987, I shot a cover for Houston City Magazine and the publisher hired me as a staff photographer.

The birth of the internet compelled me to take a job with WorldCom, leading their web development team. My work there led to an invitation to join an internet startup in Boulder, Colorado. Boulder introduced me to a world of nature trails, equestrian adventures, and breathtaking mountain vistas. I traveled across the American West, documenting the lives of wild mustangs. During this time, technological advances and digital media swept me away to worlds I could not create in the dark room.

I learned never to let the medium destroy my vision. My best work is always when I'm most true to myself. Now, I am experimenting with artificial intelligence and photography. Art has no boundaries. I will never discount or demean technology. It never replaces art. Technology advances art.

Grateful for a lifetime of photography and a loving family, I found myself in one of the most beautiful spots in the country. As President of the Cheboygan Area Photography Club, I enjoy spending time with a close-knit group of friends and fellow photographers. I enjoy promoting Cheboygan and sharing the region's picturesque landscapes, diverse wildlife, local events, and performances at the Cheboygan Opera House. From the streets to the studio to the vast expanse of nature, photography empowered me to celebrate a life of art and beauty.



*Duncan Bay Deer*



*St. John's*



*Sunset Beach, Cheboygan*

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