

Just about hands

Hands speak a thousand languages. I'm often very proud of what I can do with my hands. Hands show the years, usage and character of a person. Probably more so than a person's face. If you were to look closely at my hands you would see they have been well used and neglected over the years - but you won't yet find that photo here.

The hands of my husband are holding a book. These photographs say something about how I see him. He is rarely without a book in his hands. It is a natural part of him. He is always reading, always holding a book in his hands. Words are important to him. I've yet to stump him with a word he doesn't know the meaning of. Yet that is only one aspect of his character. But this is where this project began. My husband has been fighting prostate cancer for 16 years and I wanted to honor him and remember his wonderful hands in a photograph that reminds me of the way I most often see him. It is a meaningful aspect of who he is and of my experience of his devotion to words. I could have done a whole series of photos just showing him and all aspects of his personality. That is still to be done.

All of the photos displayed are of family and friends, people I feel close to and know well. It is from what I know of each one of them that brings forth the image. It is so much fun playing with ideas for "their" photos. Everyone gets involved and enjoys being photographed. It is just one of the ways we spend time together. We'd set up the camera under a tree with sun light coming through the branches to create this stippled light and playfully I'd shoot a full roll with each model. I love using stippled light in my photographs. What is stippled light? It is bright sun light coming through trees in a magical patterned way that, I think, adds a certain mystery and intrigue to a photo. In *seeing* through the camera, I look for the stippled light to highlight just the right spot in the photo to guide the eye to what is most important in the photograph - to what I am most interested in conveying.

And yes, it is hard to capture a soul in one photo. But I've tried.

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