

Christine Holding, Photographer

<https://christineholding.smugmug.com/>

I'm a Conceptual Photographer and Fine Art Visual Artist. Although I love to do Portraits and Fashion photography, my passion is Conceptual Photography. I live near Monterey, California with my wonderful husband and two crazy cats. I also have two wonderful, smart, gorgeous children, Justin and Jenny and five awesome grandchildren.

"I use photography as a means of artistic self-expression – I make pictures for myself and to express my interpretation of the world around me. The beauty and nature that surrounds me inspires everything I do. My goal is to use my camera to bring forth my imagination and visions like Alice In Wonderland's rabbit hole, to open an unexpected world, and places I create as curious self-expression, but also a world of new relationships, new chances, new beginnings and most importantly new dreams."

"My choice of subjects comes from a place of intuition and imagination fueled by an impetuous desire to create conceptual art from photographs and what I see in my dreams. With the camera as my medium I seek the uncommon from the common. I love to photograph people putting them into situations and places where dreams lie. Recently I have begun to work with landscapes, attempting to illustrate abstract, evocative scenery as a motif to epitomize the idea of imaginary magical space, enhancing what I see as a reminder that what I create through the viewfinder is real to me." I love to share my visions with others and hope that what pleases me pleases them.

Like Georgia O'Keefe I am a late bloomer and started my photography career at the age of 50. It all started with taking art and painting lessons from Russian and Ukrainian Master Painters for a few years. These ladies were trained how to paint in the classical sense in their country. Every Saturday I studied art and art philosophy with them until I developed a unique style of my own. Then one day I picked up a borrowed camera. From that day forth my new passion was photography. My love of people, nature and living things allows me to get close to my subjects and capture their beauty. Creative images are what excites me, the more unique the better. I try to take ordinary to the next level to make something extraordinary.

Conceptual photography for me starts out with something that inspires me. It could be fashion, a place or thing. Once I decide what the inspiration is I try to plan my shoot around that concept. I story board my ideas which helps guide me to which model, fashion, styling, hair and makeup or place I want to choose to develop my shot. I tried to do regular photography in the past such as family portraits or weddings but was never satisfied. I felt I needed to take the photos one step further and create an art piece from it. I use Photoshop and a lot of layers and textures to develop the atmosphere I want. I find myself interested in playing and exploring with photos until I see the image in my mind emerge and try to provide a fresh concept and perspective towards every project. I am an Image Maker.

I am one of the original founders of the online group "Monterey Photography –MoPho's" who has 1400 members. We share our work and support other photographers on a daily basis.

My Philosophy is: "Our imagination should be nurtured with the utmost care, for it is the tool of liberation from the bonds which tie down our existence. We can do anything we are able to imagine, become anything we are able to visualize. For it is the images, we create in our minds, which will inevitably lead us to the world that affects their realization.

I am self taught from the school of hard knocks and the Internet. I contribute my success to long hours of practicing and studying my craft. It's my passion and joy. I feel the need to create every day. I'm honored to have the opportunity to work with many creative people such as Hair Stylists, Makeup Artists and Fashion Stylists as well as other Photographers. It takes a team to accomplish a shoot. I have a photography studio on the bottom floor of my home with strobe lights but I also love natural light shooting outdoors. Any concept is fair game and an exciting challenge.

Some of the highlights of my career are the following:

Interview with Steve Zmak on Monterey Focus TV Show December 8 2016 (Monterey Photography – MoPho's). <http://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T01629&video=296754>

Center for Photographic Art (CPA) 2016 Members Juried Exhibition, Carmel, CA. June 2016

Monterey Herald "Go Magazine" March 31 2016

<http://www.montereyherald.com/article/NF/20160330/FEATURES/160339991>

Monterey Waves Magazine Nov 2015 <http://www.santacruzwaves.com/2016/02/image-maker-christine-holding-3/>

Tennessee Connections Magazine, page 20 Dec 2015

65 Degree Magazine Spring 2015

CD Cover for singer, Sean Ryan 2016

CD Cover for singer, Troy O'Shann 2013

CD Cover for singer, Jessica LeJeaune 2015

CD Cover for singer, Linda Arceo 2015

Italian Vogue June 18, 2013

65 Degree Magazine Winter Issue 2012

65 Degree Magazine Fall Issue 2012

65 Degree Magazine Summer Issue 2012

Private Clubs Magazine - Summer Issue (April-June 2012)

April 2012 US Cosmopolitan Magazine, page 88. Also published in International Cosmopolitan Magazines for: Bulgaria, Korean, Finland, Hungarian, Israel, Latin America, Poland, Slovenian, Spain, Thailand and Ukranian 2013.

10/8/11 Photo shoot with World Famous Photographer, Manny Librodo

6/22/11 Access Hollywood

6/17/11 Snakeskin Pedicure photo was featured on NBC New York Live

6/16/11 New York Post

5/1/11 EnchantmentArts (Christine Holding Photography) photos was featured in Carmel Lifestyle Magazine Spring 2011 Issue on page 30 & 32

5/16/11 Photos were features on MSNBC's Today Show

5/20/11 EnchantmentArts Photography made smugmugs all time most popular fashion photos list with our snakeskin pedicure shoot.

April 2011 Allure Magazine Online

August 2010 53Deluxe Online Magazine

2010 Cats Meow Fashion Photo Shoot Video,