

John and Debora Scanlan

In attempting to share our view of the world as a tranquil and beautiful place, we frequently find ourselves in Europe, where the Old World has preserved images of a quiet, serene life. We continually seek out images whose elements interest us artistically, emotionally and intellectually. Whether intrigued by the scene's subject matter and the feelings it evokes; its balance, lighting and innate beauty - or, most often, a delicate combination of all of these considerations - we invariably bring home what we feel is the essence of the scene. In every image, we offer a tribute to the uniqueness of the places we have visited, reflecting an admiration for the beauty, history or symbolism in each location. The result is a collection that, taken as a whole, offers a rare view of an unwavering appreciation for beauty and serenity in all its forms, both natural and cultivated.

It all started in 1979 shortly after we first met and began photographing leisurely together. Over the next couple of years, our hobby became more serious as did our relationship. While working full-time, we began showcasing images we had taken from our favorite spots around the United States at local art shows. We began to have enough success at the shows to want to continue participating in them. Over the next couple of years, we slowly increased the number of art shows we were participating in with continued success.

In 1984 we were married after a five-year courtship. In 1985, we traveled to Ireland since we both have family roots there. We had a tremendous time shooting. When returning to the states, we continued participating in local festivals showcasing the recently acquired Ireland images. These images proved to be the catalyst that enabled us to turn our part-time hobby into a full-time occupation.

Every year since then, we have traveled to foreign places where our ultimate goal is to have each and every image pay silent homage to that location's peculiar significance and power - whether via its cultural history, its symbolism, or its innate beauty. It is this power to transport that we feel distinguishes our work. Our goal is to make you feel as if you were passing through a window to another world. Hence, the name of our galleries, Windows to the World. If, in viewing our photographs, you feel a part of this past, then we have accomplished what we set out to do.

Deb and I are honored and excited by people's enthusiasm for our work, John says. It's very moving to have someone tell you they were touched by an image. We know what we like, but when other people find some meaning in what we do, we feel like we're really making a contribution.

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