

# The Keen Observer

Volume 4 8/6/2008

## Ardent is at Borders

During the month of March, I was spending a lot of time at Borders working on a writing project. At the time, they had a selection of paintings from a local artist hanging in their stairwell. I thought to myself, I wonder what it takes to have art hung on those walls. So I asked. Remarkably, the art director had just had a cancellation for August and asked if I wanted to be displayed during the month. So on Friday August 1st, I set up a selection of my photographs in the stairwell at Borders Books and Music on 38th Street in Tacoma. This display will be up the entire month of August.



"Tacoma"

Border Books And Music 2508 South 38th St, Tacoma  
(253) 473-911

## One Cream, Two Sugars

As some people know, before I began taking pictures, I was creating them with words. I still write, though not as prolifically as I did in my younger years. About five years ago, I started putting my poems together with photographs in a volume titled "One Cream, Two Sugars." Now, years later, through an on-demand self-publishing site called Blurb, this volume is available to the public. To see the first ten pages of the book please visit this link.

## Snippets

- Check out Border's Books and Music on 38th street in Tacoma during August to see my photographs displayed.
- Don't forget about CafePress for Ardent photographs on Mugs, Bumper Stickers, etc.
- Small Business Networking event August 21st at the Fircrest Bertalinos 5-7pm.

***"It is the mind  
and soul of the  
personality before  
my camera that  
interests me  
most, and the  
greater the mind  
and soul the  
greater my  
interest."  
~Yousuf Karsh***

## If This Were A Popularity Contest...

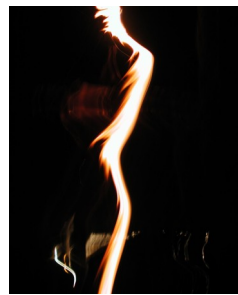


“John’s Bike”

... “John’s Bike” would win hands down. It seems that this diligent capture of a modern bike in an antique setting has triggered emotion in many people. The lighting and old-feel of this photograph have a time traveling effect, reminding people of their days as children, staring in awe at the impressive machine. Of all of the items sold on CafePress, I take the most pride in the two framed copies of “John’s Bike”.



*The Dragonfly (Sepia)*



Flaming Silhouette

This comes up because last month, I entered a photo contest called “Exposure” and needed to pick four of my best photographs. I needed outside eyes to help with this decision and sent out requests for opinions. John’s Bike was the favorite, followed by the Flaming Silhouette and the Dragonfly. Honorable mentions went to The Toilet, Tacoma, The Garden Fairy, and Curves. A big thanks to everyone who voted, but I didn’t place in the competition.



Photograph by Becky Luigart-Stayner; Mary Catherine Muir from [CookingLight.com](http://CookingLight.com)

I don’t have any green tomatoes right now otherwise I would make this again and snap a photo.

## Green Tomato and Raspberry Cobbler

This is so wonderful and refreshing though I did get a few raised eyebrows when I informed people it was a dish with green tomatoes. The recipe comes from [Cookinglight.com](http://Cookinglight.com)

### Ingredients:

3 cups fresh raspberries (I used frozen)  
 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour  
 6 cups chopped green tomato (about 1 3/4 pounds)  
 1 cup granulated sugar  
 1/4 cup water  
 Cooking spray  
 1 cup all-purpose flour  
 1/3 cup granulated sugar  
 1/3 cup packed brown sugar  
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
 1/4 cup chilled butter, cut into small pieces  
 1/2 cup low-fat buttermilk

Preheat oven to 350°.

Combine the raspberries and 1 tablespoon flour in a medium bowl; toss well.

Bring tomato, 1 cup granulated sugar, and water to a boil in a medium saucepan; cook 4 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in the raspberry mixture. Pour mixture into a 13 x 9-inch baking pan coated with cooking spray.

Lightly spoon 1 cup flour into a dry measuring cup, and level with a knife. Combine 1 cup flour, 1/3 cup granulated sugar, brown sugar, baking powder, and baking soda in a bowl, stirring with a whisk. Cut in the butter with a pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse meal. Add buttermilk, stirring just until moist. Drop the dough by heaping tablespoons onto fruit mixture. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes or until the filling is bubbly and crust is browned.

**Yield: 9 servings**

# AUGUST 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## The Art of August

- ◆ August is a great month to get Senior Portraits out of the way. The sun is still shining and schedules are not as hectic as they will be in the upcoming months.
- ◆ Don't miss Showcase Tacoma August 8-9 for a multi-disciplinary art experience that happens downtown with both visual and performing arts.  
11am-9pm

### Back 2 School Special

During the month of August, sitting fees for senior portraits are \$40 for a half hour. Hurry and make your appointment while you still have time on your hands.



Promotional Code:

### Portrait Appointment Request

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Qty. (by 1/2 hour) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail Request Form to  
 Sarah McTernan  
 c/o Ardent Photography  
 6620 48th Street Ct W  
 University Place, WA 98467

Call 253-566-6175  
 Or 253-376-6141

E-mail requests to  
[sarah@ardentphotography.com](mailto:sarah@ardentphotography.com)

- Check  
 Bill Me

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Photography Where You Want It, How You Want It

6620 48th Street Court West  
 University Place, WA 98467

Office: 253-566-6175  
 Cellular: 253-376-6141  
 E-Mail: [Sarah@ardentphotography.com](mailto:Sarah@ardentphotography.com)

**Ardent**  
 PHOTOGRAPHY



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[WWW.ARDENTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM](http://WWW.ARDENTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)

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Making the everyday unique.

## Ardent Photography Facts

Ardent Photography is based out of University Place, WA and serves greater Western Washington including Tacoma, Federal Way, Puyallup and Seattle.

I am an on-site photographer, which means I come to you and let the backdrop of your photograph be the important elements in your life. I have found that people let their true personalities shine through when they are in a comfortable setting. This is the idea behind Ardent Photography. I specialize in natural lighting and finding that right moment where "you" shines through. Portrait sessions start at \$60 for a half hour session. Please visit the [portraiture](#) page for more information and print prices. You can contact me via E-mail at [Sarah@ardentphotography.com](mailto:Sarah@ardentphotography.com) or by phone at (253) 566-6175 to make an appointment for portraits.

Beyond portraiture, I enjoy creating [unique photographic art pieces](#) and am available for [commissioned art assignments](#). When people think of commissioned photography they think of magazines or portraits, but there is another aspect, personal project photography. This is the area of photography that takes the objects in your life, the guitar you've had since high school, the heirloom brooch from Grandma Lorraine, and turns them into personal artistic photographs that can be gladly showcased in any room. I love being presented with a challenge and hope you will give me the opportunity to make the art on your walls unique and personal.

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## When You Just Need a Point and Shoot

Life does not always call for a series of different lenses and filters. Sometimes all you want to do is capture a moment. When this situation arises, I reach for my handy-dandy pocket camera. It is an Olympus Stylus 750 7.1 megapixel camera with Image Stabilization, an all weather body construction, and 5x optical zoom. I love this camera. I don't have all the control that I do with my manual, but I can capture my kids being goofy, the rainy day shenanigans, and photographs of red lights without too much worry. Personally, I am not a big fan of the Image Stabilization. I have a pretty steady hand, so the IS just makes the picture appear shaky, but no camera is perfect. I don't use a lot of the features that come with the camera like the scene modes, possibly more out of photographic integrity than any legitimate reason. I like having at least some control over the final image and not allowing the camera to do everything.

There are many great pocket cameras out there. I just have experience with this one. I like the idea of a pocket camera because it can go everywhere with you. You don't have to have a separate bag or a purse, it just slips in a pocket and away you go. You never have to say you missed a shot because you couldn't carry around your camera. Of course, this doesn't mean you won't miss a great shot or two. I walked out of the house the other day, saw a great photographic opportunity, pulled my Stylus out and then remembered the battery was charging on my desk at home. I hate it when that happens.



*Olympus Stylus 750*