

# The Keen Observer

Volume 14 8/4/2009

## Capturing the Smile

Recently my younger brother came north to visit. While he was here, he wanted me to take some photographs of him for his Internet presence. I pulled my camera out and we went and stood in my backyard. He stared at me with a cold stare. I made a wisecrack that made his face break into a smile. This went on, back and forth, for a good ten or fifteen minutes before he asked, "Why do you keep making me laugh?" My answer was simple, "because you smile a true smile when you laugh. It is not forced and you just look happy."



Cody

When you tell someone to smile, they make their lips move in the appropriate direction, but when you make someone smile, their whole face lights up. Yes, sometimes you get squinty eyes or lots of teeth, but looking at a photograph of someone truly smiling, will bring out your own smile every time.

## Art Festivals and Fall Appointments

Shelton Art Fest was this past Saturday. The weather was nice, but the crowd was light. I was hoping for a better turn out but with all the art festivals that were going on and it being SeaFair weekend, a light crowd was probably to be expected. This will most likely be the last festival I do this year. For those of you who do not know, my family and I are expecting a new addition this October. This means my fall photography schedule will be a little bit different than years past. I will still be taking portrait appointments but not for the month of October.

## Snippets

- Don't Forget to check out the Skateboards on [Zazzle.com](http://Zazzle.com)
- Like one of the photographs you see? Don't forget you can order online any-time through [e-mail](mailto:email) or my [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) shop.
- I write books too! *One Cream, Two Sugars*—Poetry combined with photography and *Painting Life*—an artistic children's book

“What counts are the little differences. ‘General ideas’ mean nothing. Long live...the details! A millimeter makes all the difference.”  
~Henri Cartier-Bresson

## The Simple Touch of Framing



“The Forgotten Barrel”  
11x14 photograph  
framed in unfinished  
wood.

One of the things I take pride in with my work happens to be the frame that I choose to put around it. When I started framing work to be hung in coffee houses and other establishments, I didn’t know much about the esthetic capabilities of the frame and I kept it simple. I still have those early photographs framed in glass clip frames. I have since moved on to scouring

my sources for a frame with just the right style and texture to compliment the photograph I am framing, relying on the talents of independent frame makers like [Rays Woodworking](#) in Maine to thrift store finds that just need a little TLC.



“Shadow Tulip ” 11x14 photograph  
framed in country white.



Nothing starts off a kid’s day better than chocolate.

They also get plenty of fiber and A vitamins with these muffins.

## Carrot-Chocolate Muffins

- 1 pound carrots shredded and chopped
- 1 1/4 cups brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup low-fat buttermilk
- 3 large eggs
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 ounce dark chocolate, finely chopped

Preheat oven to 350°.

Combine carrots, sugar, oil, buttermilk, and eggs in a large bowl. Combine flour, cocoa, soda, and salt, stirring with a whisk. Add flour mixture to carrot mixture; stir until smooth. Stir in chocolate.

Spoon batter into 22 muffin cups lined with paper liners. Bake at 350° for 22 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes on a wire rack, and remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack. Dust the cupcakes with powdered sugar or top with cream cheese.

**Yield: 22 muffins**

# AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7 Mt. Si Festival	8 In the Spirit Festival
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Sand in the City
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

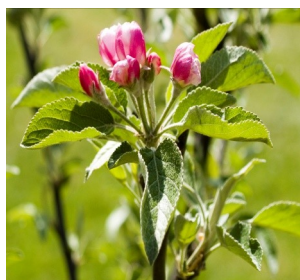
## The Art of August

- ◆ Festival at Mt. Si—North Bend, August 7th—9th from 4pm until 9pm
- ◆ In the Spirit: Northwest Native Arts Festival—Tacoma History Museum August 8th from 10am until 5pm.
- ◆ Sand in the City—Olympia, August 21-23rd
- ◆ Before the kids head off to school, make sure you capture the beauty of your family with an artistic portrait. They will never look the same as they do right now.

## Portrait Price Break

Take advantage of the summer sun!

Schedule an outdoor portrait session before August 31st, 2009 and receive 20% off your sitting fee.



Use Coupon Code:  
**APSummer2009**

## 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

☐ Check

☐ Bill Me

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## A Unique Vision of Everyday

6620 48th Street Court West  
University Place, WA 98467

Office: 253-566-6175

Cellular: 253-376-6141

E-Mail: 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 photographs 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.

## A Request...

Check out the beautiful art of Jeananne Sizemore of [ArtWhims](#). She makes the all so fashionable Dishwasher Buddies, that keep your children and spouse from making the devastating mistake of sticking dirty dishes in a clean dishwasher. She also creates unique pins and magnets to spice up your everyday life.



Jeananne also sells greeting cards, photography prints and digital collages through her [ArtWhims Paper Store](#).

Take a moment and check out the creative vision of this local artist.



Thank you,

*Sarah McTernan*