



**Peter Szarmach**  
Fine Art Photographer

I guess you could say my relationship with photography began when I won a raffle prize of a Kodak Instamatic camera at a plumbing show. (I was there because my dad and uncle owned the local hardware store.) I remember taking that Instamatic to Mexico City and Acapulco on a high school Spanish club trip and shooting all the sights.

While earning a BA in Graphic Design from the U of Illinois at Chicago, I was able to study photography with great professors such as Esther Parada. There my love of photography blossomed. Learning about the critical elements that make up a striking image has stayed with me over time.

For a portrait project, I would visit O'Hare airport and photograph passengers as they waited for their flights. There was one Asian boy who was pushing a small suitcase around the airport who became a subject of a series of images that resonated with many viewers.

One of my early "self-assignments" was to photograph the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Canada. I ended up carrying so much equipment that I made it to the press room without a press pass! I was fortunate to have some of those images shown in a neighborhood Chicago gallery.

As a working graphic designer, I would often use photography as part of a design solution and for a time had my own darkroom where I would print images to incorporate into my design work. My best "gig" as a designer was being the tour photographer for a group of college students touring Europe and then coming back and designing the itinerary booklet for next year's tours.

More recently, I have found a passion for capturing the vastness and the details in nature. Composing landscapes and natural abstracts excite me. In recent years, I also had the pleasure of capturing some coastal birds of Texas. These creatures are wondrous in flight and curious on land.

Along with being a RAG member, I am currently a board member and docent at the San Antonio Art League + Museum and a member of the New Braunfels Art League & Gallery.

My images have been in juried shows across the U.S., and I have self-published three books: [Sacred Places](#), [Natural Abstracts](#) and [Trees & Canopies](#) that feature the vastness and the details I enjoy about nature. My work also appears in two other books: [The Wildlands](#) and [Rooted in Wellness: exploring the health benefits of trees](#).

Visit [peterszarmach.com](http://peterszarmach.com) or scan the QR code below for more of my images.

