



# Through My Eyes! Mesquite, NV

Jerry Grasso



**Welcome to Through My Eyes! coverage** of some amazing locations my wife Jayne and I have visited around the world. Some are iconic while the majority of the images presented here require a more intimate exploration of the location. This particular ebook is devoted to the [Mesquite](#) geographic region in Nevada. My goal is not to present a definitive study of this area, but rather to provide hopefully a limited, tantalizing glimpse of only a small, subset of locations to peak your interest! You will find that these images are not just your typical iconic scenes, but also contain some rather different ones as well.

Often overlooked by people traveling to many of the southeast Nevada state parks, visitors will find that the sites listed below are just as majestic as the national parks in the area, but without the crowds. What impressed me the most, however, is that this area is a good example of volcanic lava formations which at times almost looked reptilian, as if from another planet. The soaring sandstone cliffs are strikingly colorful and fragile, and compliment this open prairie land, desert environment. Amid tubes of ancient lava flows, the emotional majesty of this area of the country awaits the visitor willing to quiet the soul and let go of daily distractions.

Transported by wind more than 183 million years ago, tiny grains of quartzite sand covered much of what we now call Utah. These sand dunes, up to 2,500 feet thick, eventually were cemented into stone. Burnt orange to creamy white in color, Navajo sandstone, the predominant rock in the parks, is what remains of the ancient desert sand sea. Over time, water has cut and shaped the sandstone to form canyons. Approximately 1.4 million years ago, and as recently as 27,000 years ago, nearby cinder cones erupted, causing lava to flow down these canyons, filling them with basalt. These redirected ancient waterways, eventually carved new canyons of lava-capped ridges that were once canyon bottoms.

Jayne and I always start from a home-base destination. In this case we chose Mesquite, NV. We then use a “spokes of the wheel” approach to our hiking and photographic exploration. Here are the three parks we visited.

\*\*\* [Gold Butte National Monument, Whitney Pockets, NV](#)

\*\*\* [Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, UT](#)

\*\*\* [Snow Canyon State Park, UT](#)

I chose many of these pictures as abstract, intimate versions of elements within the local scene. My attempt here is not to portray a travelogue. Rather, these are images you may not notice as you hike, walk, or travel throughout this scenic getaway. It is within this quiet exploration that we can often discover and unlock new dimensions which can add a sense of value, solace, and curiosity to enrich our every day existence.

Any image found within this ebook or on my website is available as a print purchase. Just email me at [jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com), or visit my website at [jerrygrasso.com](http://jerrygrasso.com).

Enjoy life!







































































































# My Artistic Mission

## Child-like wonder and inquisitiveness

are qualities frequently put aside once we become adults. We tend to slowly become sterilized by our right-or-wrong kind of world which too often has too little time to explore the what-if's and the what-could-be's. I believe we all need to re-connect with these qualities to re-enrich our lives. A first glance at a photograph of an onion often reveals the fact that, indeed, it is an onion. But what also lies beneath its surface? We won't know until we peel back its layers.

Animation innovator, Walt Disney, recognized this and tried to bring back the power and importance of imagination. Inspired by his spirit, my mission therefore is to encourage the use of viewer imagination. My work attempts to explore and suggest what often lies hidden within the personalities and mysteries present in the world that was, and the world that is around us.

For me, my photography often is not so much about the decisive moment. Rather, it is about creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery. It is the starting point for my artistic journey, not the destination. I try to use what I produce

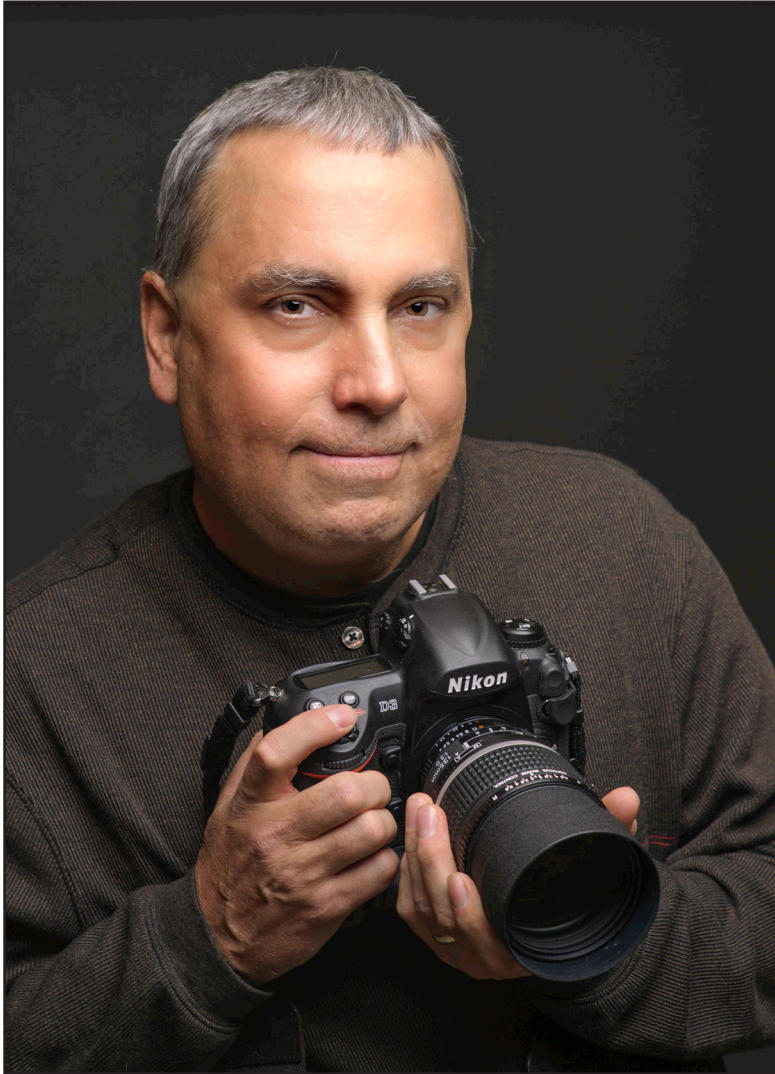
as personal metaphors for my reactions to what I saw and felt. My favorite motivational quote is that "Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone." My works attempt to reflect this as I probe the emotional, mind's eye after-image that was captured by both the eye and the heart, and which often defies logical explanation by the mind.

My goal is that my projects will serve as a springboard into inventiveness and exploration with the hopes of awakening my viewer's inner child. I try hard to show the connections and implications of things that others may not readily see. My hope is that my work may also help viewers discover the beginnings of their attempt to understand and perhaps even learn to tolerate and sympathize with the human condition and the world in which we live. I will try to do whatever I can to make viewers linger longer in front of my works so as to ignite their imaginative response through discovery and inquisitiveness.

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Enjoy life!





**JERRY GRASSO** has been an award-winning, international fine art photographer and visual artist since 2002. He has mentored locally with photographer, [Mallorie Ostrowitz](#), and then with internationally-renowned visual artist, [John Paul Caponigro](#). Photography is only the starting point for many of his projects. His favorite motivational quote is that “Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone.”

In addition to his travel photography, Jerry specializes in the intimately abstracted architectural photography, the photo essay, and the photo composite series.

Jerry’s mission is to awaken his viewer’s inquisitive inner child by creating an awareness of place and a sense of history, with an aura of mystery.





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Jerry Grasso Visual Arts  
148 Old Turnpike Road  
Bristol, CT 06010 U.S.A.

*Contact me at:*

[jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrygrasso96@yahoo.com)

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