

# Ann George

## The Three Chapters Of Illumination: God Calling

**Ann wasn't always a photographer. Her first career was as an ICU- trauma nurse. Ann then changed course to help in the development of hospitals that created a new approach to treating and healing the critically ill. She has seen her share of blood and guts, not just in the physical sense, but in the emotional stages as well. Whilst caring for people's lives when they are at their most vulnerable offered Ann the opportunity to hone her skills at empathizing and understanding the frailty of the human psyche. Through her experience and connectivity Ann developed the ability to be an effective caregiver for the physical as well as emotional side of humanity; not only did she help and support the hurting, but she loved every minute of it. Ann never considered doing anything else.**

Life can change on the spin of a dime. Little did she realize that the tables would be turned! Ann developed Multiple Sclerosis and became the patient, a journey that humbled her to the core; and she didn't humble easily, but has since found it liberating to admit that fact. As she lost the use of her left arm and hand, strength in her left leg and foot, fought the incredible fatigue, there was no alternative but to let go of her nursing career and the hospitals she started. The grief was overwhelming.

It was then that she picked up a camera and photography saved her from the grief and despair. At first she tried commercial portraits, but with her physical limitations and the fact that her heart wasn't in it, that option was dropped. It was one of those serendipitous moments in life when she walked into a gallery in New Orleans and saw work by Josephine Sacabo. She tells intellectual stories with her images, they pierced Ann's soul and in a flash she decided this was the type of work she wanted to create.

"I had no idea how to do it. I followed her work and the work of others experimenting and learning myself by trial and error. I have set upon a recipe for the textural and deep imagery that reflects feeling with an absence of time marking the work. I giggle a lot when the work shows itself because I am continually surprised that I created it. It is more like the work just comes through me and is not of me. Each image is like a gift. Working with it, in my computer, in the printing and in the paint is it's unwrapping. Ideas for my work come from stories or journeys, or a type of narrative I know or have experienced - something that seems to have a beginning and end, which is another beginning. I like to illustrate timelessness, a feeling, and a mood. The Three Chapters Of Illumination: God Calling. I had the idea to describe the burden of fear and the liberation from it. Much as the journey I went through from learning of my illness and of my entire letting go. I was compelled to represent the incarceration that is felt by fear. Not only of my own but also of the patients I had cared for. There is a way out and a way through it. You can't go around things like this. The only way out is through. I did it and so have many others. It is a story of a spiritual journey to freedom and of joy; which I possess in spite of my illness. The biggest handicap I had to realize was my pride, my need to be in control and the fear I felt from the unknown and loss of what I always knew about myself. If I was not a nurse then who was I? In the end, or beginning, it was the realization that I would rather be half in body and whole in spirit than the other way around", explained Ann about her experiences and approach to life.

It just so happened (coincidence?) that Ann's neighbor was housing the World Wide Animal Actor group as they were filming movies with wolves in her area. With her 15 yr old son and a model they were given access to the wolves. The wolves are run throughout the woods on cables connected to their collars. A slab of raw blood dripping meat on a long stick guides them. The kids were in heaven at the set. Raven, Hawks and Wolves! They watched some of the training exercises as the trainer sized up Ellen to ensure she was confident and would not give the wolves a reason to snack on her during the shoot! Ann had certain shots in mind to start with and directed only a portion of the plan. She tends to forget and likes to think she is in control. She felt the anxiety of past insecurities creeping in as she reverted back to the old thinking of, "I've got to be good enough to do this." She admits to getting better at recognizing her old nemesis 'Fear', and gave up the plan, and let the spirit of the shoot take over. She gets what she is allowed to get, nothing less and nothing more. That is the miracle of it. Ann finds it hard to articulate that feeling, to know that you know, and have captured something incredible and that you did nothing but be there to get it. The humble spirit is manifesting itself as Ann quietly states that she was there, that is all - she did not cause it to happen. Almost self deprecating she explains she does not possess super photography skills to make it happen, it just happens; the wolf image is her favorite image and reminds her that she is not in control of much of anything. Her philosophy of 'be there with no fear' has shaped the endings into beginnings and into a life full of joy and happiness, friendships and family and at its core - Faith. All I have to do is just be there - fearless, nothing more and nothing less. To prove this she explains that the image, Visitation, was shot in Notre-Dame cathedral. It is not manipulated in Photoshop and the apparition really did appear on the image.



The final interpretation of her images is printed on an Epson 7900 and using mainly Hahnemuhle Photo Rag paper. Ann is never satisfied with a straight print so uses glazing and oils as a final varnish because it deepens the blacks and gives it more of a textural body on the paper, occasionally she uses a combination of oleo pesto, matt and semi gloss varnishes depending on the image. It often takes a while for the print to dry which can cause dust issues so caution

is needed during the drying process. She is currently experimenting with polymer photogravure. Ann now has an extensive folio ready for an exhibition. Interested?

Contact her via her website [www.anngeorgephotography.com](http://www.anngeorgephotography.com)

Below: Veiled  
Right top: Primordial reflection  
Right bottom: Golden Visit





Barraicaide



Sky light



Left top: Effectuer  
Left bottom: Lingering Long  
Right top: Evangeline Reflected  
Right bottom: Nightwalker



Disinternment



Below: Prompt Sentinel  
Right top: Forest Fair  
Right bottom: Nestled







Below: Midnight Drifter  
Left: Ossabaw Offering

