

Candidate Statement

The goal of my photography is to demonstrate the inherent order and beauty of nature in both its unaltered form and in contrast/harmony with civilization. The intensity of light shining through broadleaves at sunset, the vibrant hues of the sky, the vivid greens of needleleaf forests carpeting the hillsides of northern forests, contrasting with the stark white of snow and gravelly grey of barren peaks, are just a few of the naturally occurring frames that can be photographed.

I attempted to emulate prominent nature photographers such as Ansel Adams, whose film photographs remain some of the most well-known, as well as Robert Glenn Ketchum, with his landscape shots of sweeping northern taiga, and Eliot Porter, whose nature photos captured the “quiet” and often overlooked scenes of nature.

Nature photography has historically been deeply intertwined with conservation efforts, with photos of rugged and beautiful landscapes often used to attract support for the setting aside of lands for national parks or wilderness. It is also used in environmental efforts in general, accompanying fliers advocating everything from recycling to climate change awareness.

Above all, the appealing colors and natural shapes of nature photography have made this genre of photography one of the most widespread, being popular in both public destinations and within homes. For this reason, its cultural influence speaks for itself.