

A Focus on Feathers

by Peg Hanson

As fellow photographer, author and instructor, Chris Orwig, states "A great photograph has the potential to transcend verbal and written language".

For me, photography is a visual conversation as well - a way for me to connect with nature as well as humanity; to explain what's meaningful to me, what inspires me to document it, and to share it.

My passion for birds gives voice to my photography and is the reason I chose the theme of *A Focus on Feathers* for my portfolio. In the collection, I sought to capture and communicate the elegance, drama, and beauty of feathers, both common place and exotic, in flight as well as at rest.

This collection speaks volumes to me. These delicate tapestries of color, so rich and beautiful, yet so impactful to the bird's survival, create a visual impact that adorns my studio and inspires my day. It is no wonder that the fashion industry once chose their graceful plumes to adorn the head coverings of women in the late 1800's - yet in so doing, once decimated the population of two of our most elegant birds, the snowy and great egrets.

To capture my collection, I chose the camera, long lenses, and a narrow focus. I visited sanctuaries, aviaries, zoos, fields, and farms; stood in the cold and wind belly down, and hid under brush to minimize my impact, to capture the uniqueness of each species directly from life, without disturbing it.

I can only hope that my collection speaks to you, as it does to me, and that it inspires you to appreciate and promote the conservation of our bird populations along with their incredibly wonderful feathers.