

# FRAMIES

FROM THE JEWEL OF LIFE



## SANTORINI

*Take a journey through time  
in the islands history*

## ART

*Searching for the essence  
of the artistic spirit*

## TRAVEL

*A glimpse into the wonders  
of the travelers lifestyle*



INSPIRATION / LUXURY / EDITORIAL / LIFESTYLE



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Welcome to the first issue of *Frames*

Photography is the simplest and easiest way to create an eternal memory. In the blink of an eye we create something that can live forever. A photograph can be a portal, transferring us to the past and allowing us to relive it. In this sense, photography is the most accurate diary of our existence.

To me, photography is more than a job, it is my passion, and I have been a professional photographer for over a decade. Born and raised in Athens, Greece, I completed my graduate studies in the field and immediately threw myself into work, eager to explore this craft and push my limits. After testing a variety of different styles and approaches, I selected to specialize in the fields of Wedding and Editorial photography.

In my career, I have grasped every opportunity that has come my way to visit a new place. Through my work, I have had the luck of traveling to different destinations around the globe. Thailand, India, Dubai, Lebanon and Southern Africa have been some of the countries that have helped shape me into the person and the artist I am today.

In these pages you will be introduced to the things I find important in my work and in my life. Hopefully, you will see why this is not a mere job description for me, but rather a description of who I am.



Anastasios Aggelou

ANASTASIOS AGGELOU  
DESTINATION PHOTOGRAPHER



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#### AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

Since 2013 our work has been featured in highly esteemed websites in the field.



# A BALANCE OF LIGHT AND SHADOW

*Reflections and impressions on the controversial and omnipresent subject of art.*

It has been vastly documented through the years that art serves a higher purpose in our lives. That it is a means of understanding and experiencing emotion. A lot can be said about the technicalities of being an artist, and it would all be correct. However, the practical aspect is only a small part of the whole.

## ART IS A CONSTANT SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH.

A restless search for the light and all the shadow it casts. It is seeing the black in the white and the white in the black, and embracing the fact that inside everything there is an inherent contradiction. It is in these contrasting elements that lies our essence. By dealing with the best and worst in us, in search of equilibrium, we discover who we are. It is the challenge of unraveling this personal conflict, that leads to the manifestation of the raw material that is us. And this is what I look for every time I pick up my camera.

## ART IS NOT A SKILL.

However, it undoubtedly demands for a skillset. A skillset that can be painfully cultivated and expanded, widened and renewed. Being an artist in all its multiplicities of characteristics and talents, is among the most demanding of demands that we can make of ourselves. We have entered a universe of discovery and delusion. It will never finish. It will never be entirely revealed, for as long as we nourish the idea of seeking to reach further, through creation.

## THE ARTIST TRIES TO CONNECT WITH SOMETHING BIGGER THROUGH ART.

Something universal, something beyond words or consciousness. It is the artists duty to wait patiently and to be ready to listen, when the object decides to really speak. Only then can something be revealed. A moment. A meaningful moment.

## ARTISTS HAVE THE ABILITY TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT REACHES THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE.

Something that moves them and their audience in ways nothing else can. Artists are able to provoke courage and can ignite will. They are storytellers, intellectuals and revolutionaries. What they create can be everything from an epiphany to a disturbance, that has the power to cause a change in the viewer.



## CREATING ART IS A VULNERABLE AND DARING EXPERIENCE.

A journey that we take not only as artists but as people walking through life. Ultimately, to be better artists we need to do everything in our power to be better people. Looking back over the years, I can see with perfect clarity that photography has played a huge part in my evolution into the person I am today. There have been days when I loved being an artist. Days when inspiration and creation flowed through me effortlessly. There have also been days when I have carried the weight of my emotions, so that maybe someone else can face theirs.

But, there has never been a day when I felt I had the choice to stop.

ART IS NOT A CHOICE. WE DO NOT CHOSE TO BECOME ARTISTS. WE WERE NEVER ANYTHING ELSE TO BEGIN WITH.



# SHADES OF THE SUN

*Internationally renowned as one of the worlds most attractive destinations, Santorini was built on the ruins of an equally astonishing civilization.*

Santorini requires no introduction. Indeed, volumes have been written about her mesmerizing beauty. The enchanting sunsets, the active volcano and the incomparable blue domes are only a few of the elements that have granted the island a place in the heart of travelers. The unique caldera and the picturesque scenery have led to the island being celebrated as one of the top international destinations.

However, few people realize that Santorini was not always the cosmopolitan hotspot it is today. There was a time, not long ago, when the island was only accessible a few times a week by ferry and when all transportation relied solely on donkeys. This rural and bucolic face of the island has been kept away from the spotlight and often goes unnoticed by the eyes of the uninquisitive visitor. In addition to its rich recent history, the island holds great historic significance. In fact, Santorini is found in the heart of biblical and mythical stories, that capture the interest of archaeologists and historians across the globe.

**NOTHING SEEN ON THIS ISLAND IS A RESULT OF MERE LUCK.**

Starting from the very shape of the island, it is evident that the circular formation that is gaping in the middle only to host for one of the oldest active volcanoes in the world, is a direct result of the eruption that drowned the advanced local civilization. The smaller islands framing Santorini are all products of the volcanic activity, that never ceased. Young islands made up entirely of volcanic lava that first started to rise two thousand years ago, have since changed shape and form many times, in difference to the whims of the volcano.

However, this is not all that history has to offer.

**THE UNIQUE ISLAND, MELTED TOGETHER ON THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION, HAS A DISTINCT GOLDEN THREAD TYING IT TO ITS PREHISTORIC STATE.**

From a geological perspective, the different layers of ash and lava deposited all over the island, with subtle differences in shade or hue, represent a different time of coming into being. Together they form a complete and accurate historical map showing the geological fingerprints of the area, going back millions of years. These different points of the island's past and impose its magnificent story in every visitor with a spark of curiosity.

Despite the undeniable morphology that stems from millennia of existence, all the features that make Santorini so special derive from a lifestyle established long ago.

**IN REALITY, TAKING A WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF SANTORINI CAN FEEL LIKE TAKING A WALK THROUGH HISTORY.**

This peculiar blend gives a feeling of time travel and creates a magical, almost transcendental atmosphere. The distinct white houses and churches, with their blue domes are more than just anaesthetic intervention to enhance landscape. It is in this style that houses have always been constructed.

Another significant aspect of Thira that has truly captured my interest, is the dominant presence of art in the lives of the people. Looking through the sparse findings, a rare conclusion can be drawn:



**ART WAS NOT A PRIVILEGE OF THE ELITE FEW.**

Art was a common good that belonged in every household. It is no accident that the vast majority of cave houses dating back to those times hide intricate and detailed murals. From the homes of simple workers, to the walls of the noblest families, they are testimonies to the reality of the inhabitants and insight to their way of life.

Furthermore, on a more mystical note, the geographical shape that Plato attributes to Atlantis matches the prehistoric morphology of Santorini. A round island with a smaller island in the center. The destruction of the island following the eruption of the volcano, at 1500 B.C. also agrees with the description of the disappearance of Atlantis, as given by Plato. In addition, the museum of Akrotiri holds findings that attest to a lifestyle very close to the one we find explained in Platos works. The usage of a sewerage system, an advanced architectural structure, a plethora of household items that seem almost anachronistic as well as a variety of scriptures, all studied by contemporary archaeologists, support the unfathomable argument that perhaps the Aegean Sea has been holding the answer to this captivating mystery all along.

**THE ERUPTION OF THE VOLCANO HOLDS A STRONG BIBLICAL CONNECTION.**

It has been repeatedly supported that this volcanic activity is the actual explanation of the twelve plagues depicted in the Exodus. The twelve plagues were inflicted by the Gods to force the Pharaoh to release the Israelites from their inhumane bond to him.

Specifically, intense dust storms supposedly rained down in Egypt, turning days into nights. These dust clouds are thought to have been the aftermath of the volcanic explosion. Moreover, the alteration of air pressure and weather conditions attracted hordes of locusts and there was evidence of erratic animal activity. In spite of the admittedly questionable authenticity of all these hypothesis and stories, one cannot help but notice the unparalleled significance of the eruption of the volcano of Santorini.

Hence, I invite you to look at this island keeping in mind that this place has to offer more than meets the eye. I invite you to explore and search. I encourage you to talk to locals and ask them about their stories. You will hear stories of hard work, of true love, of striving and succeeding.

**STORIES OF A DIFFERENT TIME, THAT ALTHOUGH PAST, STILL EXISTS VERY MUCH ALIVE, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO REACH FOR IT.**

Source: [www.greka.com](http://www.greka.com)

# A SINCERE MOMENT

*A dive into the artistic creative process and how it manifests in our work.*

## WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES ART "ALIVE" ?

What is that element that makes this vague but distinct difference?

In every piece of art, one can identify three integral parts. The first thing that meets the eye is the physical form of the piece. The materials used, the process, the technique, colors, texture, etc. The second factor that is inevitably considered is the artist. Who they are, how they work, what they are trying to communicate through their work. The third thing, is inspiration. What drove the artist to create. What idea matured within them only to be expressed in this way. What in the way they look at and perceive the world makes their voice worth listening to. Where did they find this inspiration and how much of a say did they have in the outcome of their work. It is undeniable that the concept of art is inextricably linked to the notion of inspiration.

**INSPIRATION IS THE FUEL OF THE ARTIST. IT IS THE PULSE OF THE CREATOR AND THE BREATH OF THE PIECE. THE SOURCE OF MASTERPIECES AND THE MOTHER OF REVOLUTIONARY WORKS THAT HAVE CHALLENGED THE STATUS QUO.**

But what exactly is this abstract and intangible sense? What is this element that shines by not only its presence, but equally by its absence? Where does one find it, why does one lose it and how can someone regain it? Questions that have tormented the creative soul from its birth.

From my own experience, this subject can be very challenging in understanding and reconciling within ones mind. The way I have encountered it, inspiration is not an on-demand service. It is not a source to run to for fuel whenever the creative process slows down or falls apart. It has nothing to do with good intentions or appetite for work. It is as elusive as anything in this universe and the more one tries to hold on to it, the sooner it is going to slip right through their fingers, like the light of a candle that goes out with a slight breeze.

Often times, it is argued that inspiration has nothing to do with the artist. It is not something that resides in their psyche and it is not something they can call upon at will.



**THROUGH THE COURSE OF HISTORY, WE ENCOUNTER THE UNDERSTANDING THAT INSPIRATION IS A WHOLE AND AUTONOMOUS ENTITY, THAT CHOOSES TO CONNECT WITH AN ARTIST FOR A SPECIFIC TIME AND FOR A SPECIFIC REASON.**

It expresses through them what needs to be put out into the world and then leaves them. These ideas, found in the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations, help alleviate the suffering of the artist. How so, you may ask.

If inspiration is, in fact, out of their hands, there is nothing they can do to provoke or block it. If inspiration is a being of its own then the artist is neither to praise, nor to blame for the work he produces. This automatically unburdens the artist. It is not within his control when and if inspiration will strike, therefore they need not look for it. Additionally, the lucky chosen ones to receive it can never order it to return.



therefore they need not worry about maintaining it or never reaching it again. If they never experience it again, this only means that they have served their purpose. If we were to strip these theories of their supernatural elements, we could still hold on to the assumption that inspiration is not within the artists control. This I do believe in.

**IN MY LIFE AND MY CARREER, I HAVE FOUND MYSELF INSPIRED IN THE MOST UNLIKELY CIRCUMSTANCES, WHEN I LEAST EXPECTED IT AND WITHOUT HAVING DONE ANYTHING TO CAUSE IT.**

In those moments, when I felt connected to something bigger than myself, I noticed that I was not doing anything on purpose. I was not concerned about angles or lighting, nor was I waiting with my finger on the trigger for the perfect moment. I was just there. With my camera. Witnessing.

Of course, this is not to say that inspiration is a lucky moment in time.

It is our duty as artists to prepare as best we can, to put all our energy into improving our skills, in preparation for the moment inspiration will come to us. We put our faith in our art and we believe that when the time comes, when we finally experience this clarity and this awareness, we will be holding the arms necessary to do justice to this calling. This, in my opinion, is the task of the true creative soul.

**THAT WE ARE PRESENT, THAT WE DO OUR PART, THAT WE DO NOT GIVE UP AND DO NOT LOSE HOPE.**

Only then, when the artist is ready, can true inspiration finally appear.



# A MULTIFACETED WORLD



It is often said that traveling is one of the most valuable experiences in life. In fact, life is associated with movement. Movement means progress. However slow, however imperceptible. Progress means change and change is brought by traveling. Human beings are compelled to move.

Throughout time, people have been striving to see the world, constantly trying to reach farther and further. Indeed, to travel is admittedly the most efficient and guaranteed way to broaden ones horizons and to expand ones mind. Beautiful scenery, interesting history, diverse cultures and peculiar customs, all offer such strong stimuli that cannot but affect even the most reluctant traveler.

**TRAVELING IS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST FEEDING OUR CURIOSITY.**

Imagine for a moment arriving at a new place that is dramatically different to your home. Imagine setting foot in the Amazon forest, or the floating markets of Thailand, or the virgin mountains of Nepal. Imagine being surrounded by

nature you have never seen before, hearing words that seem incoherent to you and tasting food you did not know existed. All of this is the known allure of visiting a new land and seeing the secrets it holds. Moreover, Imagine investing the soul and energy to actually immerse yourself in this unknown and mystical culture surrounding you. How radically will you be influenced by this experience?

It is true. Traveling is the sole most efficient way to get to know the world. To learn. To see how others live and to experience the problems and joys of their daily lives. Problems that to us would seem unfathomable. Joys that in our eyes would go unnoticed. That is exactly where the essence of traveling lies.

**TRAVELING IS NOT JUST MERELY REACHING A DESTINATION. IT IS DISCOVERING A NEW APPROACH TO LIFE.**

Finding out a new modus vivendi and observing how the people within it handle their lives. What they value and what they find offensive. What bonds them and what they condemn.



It would be safe for me to say that perhaps the biggest privilege granted to me by my job as a photographer is the opportunity to travel across the globe. On this journey my camera has been my ticket, from all across Europe to the small villages of India and to the wilderness of Africa. Through traveling I have found a profound respect for humanity. I have seen marvels of nature that have put my place in this world into perspective.

Undoubtedly, from what I can attest, the most captivating thing I have experienced is the realization that all human beings are genuinely connected.

**THAT HUMANITY IS A WHOLE, SURPASSING THE COLLECTIVE OF CULTURES.**

Despite the grave differences that separate us, we can all communicate on a profound level. Irrespective of location or language, a smile is universal. By communicating in this very raw, very human way of emotions, one can begin to really comprehend how we are all tied together. Visiting different destinations has made me sure that there is beauty and kindness in the world, and I have been lucky enough to document it.

It is without question that in this I find purpose. Seeing the world, traveling far and wide, in the name of understanding the truth of what lies before me, in the name of using my camera to communicate this truth. The invaluable opportunity to be constantly learning and constantly growing, as an artist and as a person, is what has led me to say, without a doubt, that destination photography is far more than a title, it is a privilege, and a purpose that is my honor to serve.



