

# PHOTO CYNICS MANIFESTO

- 1. QUESTION ALL THINGS.** Break the rules. Think outside the box. Take chances.
- 2. NO A PRIORI.** You have all that you need already to photograph: a camera, film, good walking shoes. Many think that if only they had the fastest, the latest model, the most expensive, they could be better photographers. Don't be a slave to the marketing of technology. Use what you have.
- 3. TRANSCENDENCE.** Materialism, status, and fame are not goals in life. An artist should not feel they deserve adulation or expect any rewards. Photography is a metaphysical endeavor. Through it one seeks their internal world through the external one. Photography is its own reward like writing a poem. There is no road to fame and fortune but perhaps if you stay on your own path they will follow you, like a good dog!
- 4. WALK THE WALL** - go out and shoot! You will always discover something magical. A friend said that if you are looking down, look up! If you miss a photo move on. There is probably a better one around the corner. If someone confronts you for lifting your camera, touch them to disarm their fear.
- 5. SAVE YOURSELF!** You cannot save the world through photography but you can save yourself! If you can describe what it's like to live in a time and place, like Dante, like Chagall, you will be doing something more valuable than trying to save others which ultimately gets corrupted. Save yourself from ignorance and fear and you will make the world a better place for generations.
- 6. READ, READ! READ!!** Your inspiration should come from other sources besides photography; books, cinema, painting. I'm always wary of someone who does not have a dog eared book in their bag.
- 7. NO BOUNDARIES IN LIFE!** But only if you put them there.
- 8. KILL THE BUDDHA.** The Buddha says if you see the Buddha on the road kill him, which metaphorically means that student must always overtake the teacher. **EXPERIENCE IS YOUR ONLY TEACHER.** Teachers can only point the way and usually they themselves got off their own path.
- 9. EXPOSE YOURSELF!** otherwise you are just wasting everyones time. Follow your heart.
- 10. ALWAYS HAVE YOUR CAMERA LOADED!**