

Van Edwards
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Dear Mr. Porter;

I am quite new to photography, recognizing it as a means of personal expression in just the past couple of years. I received a B. S. degree in photography in 1971 and have since worked as a commercial, photographer, a free lancer, and for the past year, as a medical photographer. I have, as time allows, continued to develop and evolve my photographic senses. I enjoy most nature and landscape photography and I would very much like to pursue a career as a nature photographer.

I have spent many hours totally captivated in viewing reproductions of your beautiful photographs in Audubon magazine and in the Sierra Club books. I recently had the privilege of viewing a large show of your dye-transfer prints at the Amon Carter Museum in Ft. Worth; it was an inspirational experience. For me, nature and landscape photography represent, as Ansel Adams has said, "...an affirmation of life." I believe in life, a life of quality and simplicity with man in harmony with nature, not conflict. Thank you for your "affirmation" through

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photography.

How might I find a career as a photographer of nature? Have you any suggestions and/or would you recommend any other photographers, publishers, etc. with whom I might correspond on this matter. Where and with whom might I learn to become a master of nature photography. Do you have any assistants or apprentices working for you or do any of your fellow photographers use people in this capacity?

I am considering returning to college in order to study photography on the graduate level, but my correspondence with many graduate schools leads me to believe that nature and landscape photography are not the "in thing" - not a relevant fine art form. I am quite discouraged because it is difficult to understand just what it is that graduate school art departments are looking for from photographers. I feel that if ~~one~~ photography was a little less introspective, subjective, or personal at times, and a would turn (or return if you will) to looking at and recording the world about us (the natural

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world that is), perhaps this more objective and worldly attitude would help this troubled world to recognize its "roots," its strong ties for existence with the natural world. For me, the beauty, harmony, and order of nature present a lesson and a sense of value which man can hardly afford to ignore, if indeed he has recognized it as yet. (Please excuse the slight detour.)

Thankyou for your time and patience in reading this letter and thankyou for the beautiful photography which you have given to the world. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Very Sincerely,
Van Edwards