

RAWIST MANIFESTO

The concept of Rawism in photography is an answer from all the professional creators that have the act of photographing as their major way of expression towards the irresponsible banalization of creating images based on manipulation tools provided by contemporary technology.

Due to a large amount of affordable photographic equipment available, programs that can create and redefine any image, along with the unstoppable use of the internet, a large amount of so called photographers is taking over part of the imagery production and delivery in our daily lives. Without any sort of critical thinking, hundreds of images are being accepted in several fields that have a direct effect in society such as arts, documentary and news. An example of this would be the action of one of the biggest News Agency in the world, CNN, that recently dismissed the service of over 50 professionals such as editors and photojournalists claiming that “new technology in desktop editing and user-generated content and social media have made some editing and photojournalism positions redundant” (1). This raises the question of why this sort of attitude is acceptable in such an important vein of society if the same applied to any other field developed by the human kind would be treated almost as a sin. If curing a skin infection or flu with basic knowledge would not make anyone a doctor, why taking a couple of good random photos would create a professional photographer? The line between professional and amateur or random seems to have been broken and so has the concept of responsible production, thus the deep understanding of why photography is in serious risk.

Rawism understands that arts and documentary fields are extremely important for the human history and should be treated with respect and expertise, based on knowledge and critical thinking. It is expected from Rawist photographers to:

- Establish a theoretical framework for development of your art, so a more refined practice can be achieved;
- Search for originality in contemporary photography through genuine and passionate engagement with process;
- Rely on only the camera itself as the main tool for production of the images, and treat technological resources such as Photoshop as the laboratory was treated when the analogical process was the only option: as an editing tool only;
- Overall be a refined storyteller.

Rawism is a call for all the photographers that understand their role in society: express and document the human history for the generations to come with ethics and creativity. Professionals for a better world.

If you want to have your portfolio featured by us, send a short Artist Statement+ Website+ 1 (one) image 72dpi max 500k to:

info@rawismphotography.com

IT'S FREE!! WE DO IT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT!

RAWIST MANIFESTO

Rawism is the art of aligning our senses with the multiplicity of resources found in a photographic camera to capture what is and what is not. Rawists understand their role as photographers in our society. We acknowledge that arts and documentary fields are extremely important for the human history and should be treated with respect and expertise, based on knowledge and critical thinking – these are the ethical values that inform our practice. We are refined storytellers in search for originality in contemporary photography. We seek genuine and passionate engagement with the process of photographing.

Writing with light, creating with light, transforming with light: through the camera – a simple parameter that defines the rawist paradigm. The dark chamber remains as the essential apparatus that reveals what the eye touches, the heart sees and the mind intuitively smells. Camera and human savouring and listening to the world together, working together, a pleasant and satisfying labor that strives to present a partnership with accuracy.

Our photographs come to life as they are captured; carrying all the complexities and simplicities of our creative process, of our capacity to bear perfections and casual encounters when we decide it's worth reaching for the shutter. Less is more, and post-production is limited to no more than raw conversion. We edit for the sake of the best in a photograph, preserving what resembles the developing process of a film. Our sacred dark chamber is the photographic camera, not the computer.

Rawism is a calling. Rawism screams to rescue and gather all photographers whose primary practice lies in the use of the photographic medium in the raw. Rawist photographers are those who welcome the digital age but who stand strong against a banalized production of digital images based on manipulation provided by contemporary technology. Photography is not even two centuries old and at the verge of its consolidation as an art form, and as the epicenter of the democratization of representation of the masses, the time has come to determine our boundaries: we are photographers, not digital illusionists. We are professionals – masters of the camera and the art of photographic language.

© 2011 Luciana Vasques Barbosa & Milton Mansilha All rights reserved. No part of this Manifest may be reproduced in any form whatsoever without the acknowledge of the Authors

