67 Wili Okai Way

Peter Lik Artwork

Allure

Columbia River Gorge, Oregon

Seeing the shafts of light in the canyon is one of the most amazing things I've ever seen. It was a surreal feeling being surrounded by the towering cliffs. Torrential record rainfalls had flooded the entire gorge and I was warned by park rangers not to enter. A massive extremely treacherous logjam at the start of the gorge had to be overcome. The only way I could capture this special moment of the weeping walls was after an incredibly torrential rain. It was no joke. This river was ripping through there and one wrong move or one log would put me over the edge.

Mist and rain covered the camera, but I fired a few shots. I had to get it. This scene was out of this world. As I stood in awe of the scene, the sun broke through for a few seconds and cast God's rays into the side lit waterfall. I was in total awe. I took three frames and it was gone. What a place, a challenge, a shot. It was a moment in time no one else would have seen, captured on film.



Castaway

Molokai, Hawaii

Molokai is one of the most unspoiled of the Hawaiian islands. Still embracing the ‘old’ way of life, the atmosphere unhurried and relaxed. I always strive to portray the true spirit of place, and I could think of nothing better to depict the real heart of Molokai than with a tranquil sunrise scene. On this balmy summer morning I set up on the shoreline with the distant island of Lanai just visible. The stillness and silence was complete with not even a whisper of wind to mar the glassy surface of the ocean. The converging clouds created an absolutely perfect reflection and through my lens, the entire scene looked like a pastel watercolor folded at the horizon. The traditional wooden rowboat adds depth and nodding aloha to a new day. A perfect pairing of man and nature existing in harmony.



Enchanted Jetty

Nizuc Resort, Mexico

There is something really special about that classic old jetty. It takes you somewhere else – to another place – of total peace. The shape and artistic form of this jetty just totally captured me – all I had to do was wait for the right night to capture its beauty. I shot the scene a few nights but could not walk away from this scene until it was perfect. As I set up this evening I could feel a vibe - late afternoon clouds rolled in quick and the sunset lit the place up like a Christmas tree. I prayed for the post lights to come on as the colors peaked – it just made the scene. I stood in awe as the light show cast its glow over this magical moment.



Inner Peace

Portland, Oregon

Standing beneath the canopy of this Japanese Maple tree was an incredible feeling - I was in awe as the late afternoon light backlit the delicate leaves. Every branch told its own story, and I felt this special tree had so much to tell. I truly felt an indescribable energy - a total connection with Mother Earth. I used a really wide-angle lens to reach out to as much of the tree as possible. I put my camera on the ground to give me a strong perspective to shoot up into the skies. As the sun sunk toward the horizon, the tree came to life with an incredible display of color, shape and texture - its rays burst into a star within the tree. It was a magical moment when I pressed the shutter - one I'll never forget. I hope I can bring to you the rush of emotions I experienced. Enjoy.

This award wining masterpiece has adorned the walls of the Smithsonian National Museum of History



Island Bliss

Oahu, Hawaii

Molii Fishpond jetty located in the Ahupuaa of Hakipuu with views of the majestic Puukanehoalani mountain peak on the Windward side of Oahu.



Kauai Dreaming

Kauai, Hawaii

I wanted to capture the true essence of Hawai'i, and spent days scouting coves, cliffs, ocean and beaches. I was drawn back to Queen's Bath, where the ocean pounded against the cliffs. I needed magical light to enhance the scene. After five days of bland skies, I felt something was going to happen. Setting up my tripod on the cliff's edge, I watched in awe as the sun and clouds reached up to touch the sky. It was only a brief lightshow and I took a series of shots. I used a long exposure to give the moving waves a painterly feel. I selected this frame with the waterfalls in the foreground, leading off into the epic backdrop of the Napali Coast. I hope you feel the magic in this shot the way I did when I pressed the shutter.



Natural Archway

Queensland, Australia

I felt in this shot, I had reversed my normal role in photography. Instead of being on the outside of a scene looking in, I was literally on the inside of the image looking out. From within the confines of the cave, I was positioned behind this magical curtain of water, which cascades from the river above. As I breathed in the earthy smells of the cave I felt the peace and tranquility of my surrounds wash over me and produced this unusual shot.



Ocean Dance

Maui, Hawaii

There is something really magical about the ocean - I have been drawn to it all my life. As a kid I loved to surf in Australia, sometimes spending the whole day in the water, right till total darkness. It's like immersing yourself in Mother Nature's soul. I set out to capture this feeling as close as I could through the lens. The exact location was CRITICAL for this image as I needed depth and clarity - I didn't want it to look like a standard wave shot. I wanted it side on. Searching the island for weeks for that perfect vantage point was time consuming. Then – waiting for the perfect swell. The formation of "Ocean Dance" was really out of the ordinary – it was created by two waves colliding together – shaped by one wave hitting the cliff causing constructive interference. I stood there for hours mesmerized by the changing patterns of the ocean. I took thousands of exposures – all were so different – but selected this one for my gallery wall. The shape, texture, depth and color all came together in this one frame. When you look closely at this shot it looks like a mermaid flicking her hair back sculpted out of molten glass.



Painted Tides

Maui, Hawaii

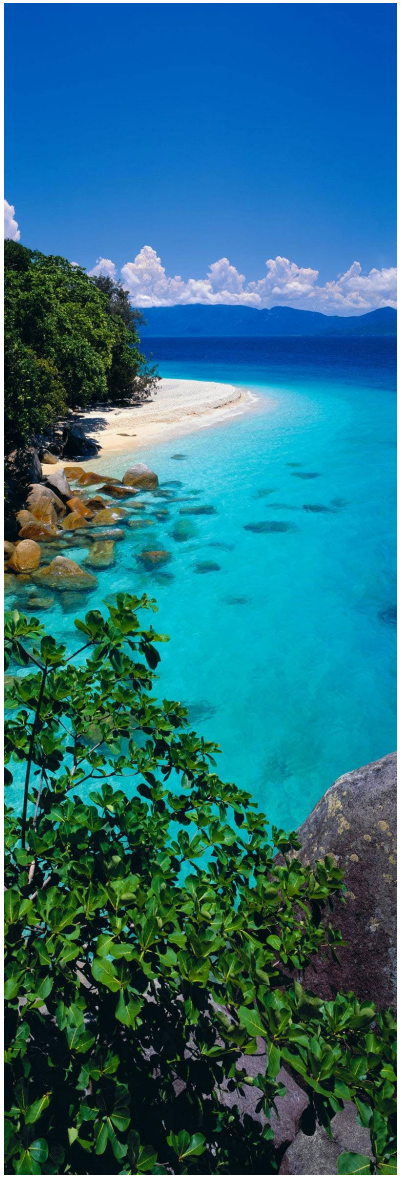
Hawaii has always been one of my all-time favorite places to shoot. I could just sit by the shoreline for hours and watch the waves roll in – getting lost in the constant pounding surf. There is always a split second when a swell is at its peak moment, just before it sprays the undertow as it comes crashing down. This is the moment I set out to capture. A few beats after the sun had completely disappeared, the soft glow from the island lights illuminated my view perfectly, with a combination of orange and aqua tones. All I had to do was wait for the next beauty to roll in. Finally, I readied myself knowing this was the one, curling to such a crescendo with its frothy mist of salt water. I set the exposure in order to truly reveal every detail of this magical force of nature, and quickly pressed the shutter as I felt the whole scene come together. The result showcases the curve of the wave, nicely reflecting its own crest, shimmering under a night sky. This image is the spirit of Maui, unpredictable and beautiful all at the same time.



Pure

Queensland, Australia

It was a balmy summer day and I had spent hours capturing shots along the beach. As I searched for a different vantage point and climbed the stack of boulders towering above the beach I saw it–pure beauty. It was a scene that few people get to experience. The crystal clear waters stretched as far as I could see. The rock face was baking in the mid- day sun under my feet as I stretched out over the ledge to grab the perfect shot before the sun fell. I felt like the only person in the world as I pressed the shutter.



The City

Brooklyn, New York

As difficult as it was to gain entry to shoot the Manhattan Bridge from this angle, it was worth every bit of effort. Arriving at about 4:30 pm in order to begin capturing the sun setting on the city as the lights turned on one-by-one; I was awestruck by the sheer volume of activity and life.

The long exposure captured all of the motion in the city and the rippling of water below the bridge. This perspective creates the effect of the bridge cradling the heart of the city—another symbol of the strength and beauty that is New York City. Being able to share and capture a few seconds in the life of the city was as humbling as it was rewarding—especially during such a perfect sunset.



Tranquil Bay

Queensland, Australia

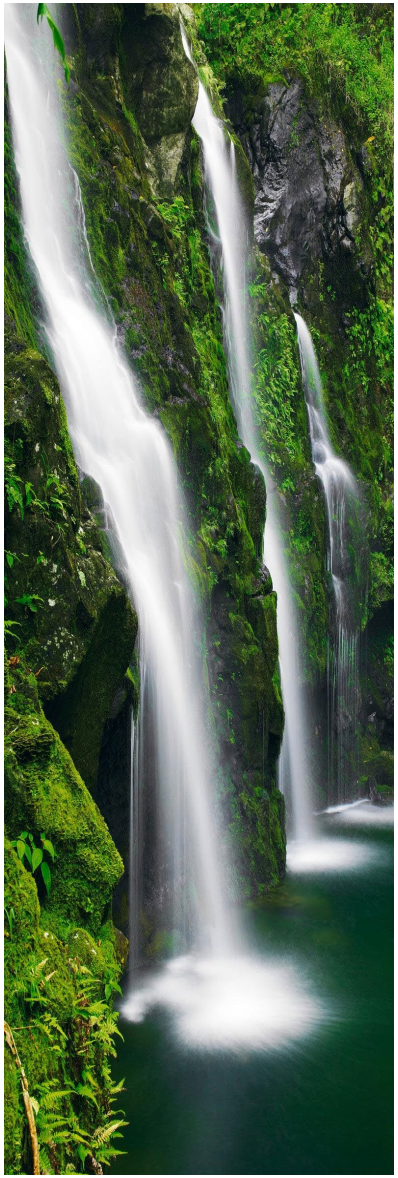
Fitzroy Island is only forty minutes away from Cairns, but a million miles away from reality. Early one morning before the crowds had arrived, I happened across this old wooden rowboat moored just off the beach. The sun reflecting off the boat really emphasized the depth and clarity of the water. I shot off a couple of frames and then swung the camera vertically. This was the shot of the day – just another day in paradise!



Wailele

Maui, Hawaii

Catching this triplet of waterfalls in one vertical frame gives the shot a nice pattern that's almost geometric. I love it when I find something in nature that looks like it was actually designed. What's really interesting here is the way the water hits the pool and looks like spotlights on a stage. You couldn't plan it any better. There's a tremendous symmetry here but the angle I chose accentuates the depth of field. And the morning light was just perfect to highlight the plant growth. Nature never ceases to amaze me!



Whispering Spirit

Maui, Hawaii

I was really drawn to the deep blue/black tones of this exotic bamboo species. Deep in a massive bamboo forest was this secret location in Hana, Maui that I knew existed. The stunning contrast of the iridescent green leaves against the ebony trunks really made this shot pop. To capture the spirit of this scene I needed total calmness – and of course out here in Maui, the wind would blow the dog off a chain. Patience was the only key to nailing this shot. Two days of shooting didn't cut it – the wind was relentless. On day three of an early start – I finally got the break of total calm that I needed. The moment of total Zen was captured. Hope you can feel it!



Night Dreams

Oregon

I have always had a deep fascination with the night skies. As a kid, I remember my dad pointing out the constellations and we would name them. All we saw back then was a black sky and millions of stars - only what the naked eye could see. The camera totally changed that vision. Exploring out back Oregon, I searched for a totally remote location - away from as much light pollution as possible. As soon as I discovered this scene I felt the connection between heaven and earth. The silhouette of the tree and classic old barn really told a story to me. Being alone in total remote darkness and silence was magical - then the long exposure opened up another world through my lens. It really felt like a night dream - a moment I will never forget.



Living the Dream

Oahu, Hawaii Sunrise

