

## Artist's Statement:

Trained in the sciences, working professionally in the information technology and project management fields for the past 15 years, but long interested in the arts, I have sought to strike a balance in my life between the rational and creative, analytical and intuitive, left-brain and right-brain. This balance is difficult to attain and a challenge to maintain, with “modern life” conspiring to pigeon-hole our endeavors and steal our time. However, within each one of us there is *The Muse*: the creative flame, waiting to be ignited and fanned.

Always interested in photography, over the past decade making images has become my passion, my *Muse*. Rarely a day passes when I don't do *something* related to photography, be it finding myself behind a viewfinder, in front of a computer digital dark-rooming, or printing out images. Personally more of a generalist than a specialist, my photographic interests run a wide gamut from color to black & white, landscapes to architecture, travel to local studies. While now working mostly in the digital space, I still shoot film, primarily in the 35mm panorama format. One unique photographic area I actively work in is taking photos in the near-infrared spectrum, just beyond visible light. Infrared “light” when rendered on film or via digital technology, yields sublime, sometimes startling results. Over time, I have developed many images that show the deserts and mountains of Utah, as well as various European locations, in this ethereal light. Another type of photography that I have recently begun exploring is High Dynamic Range. With HDR you shoot the same scene at different exposures and then blend the images into one file. This yields a photograph with a smooth range of tonalities that emulate what the eye sees but, until now, what cameras could not reproduce.

Now finding myself between careers, I have decided to take this as an opportunity to move my photography to the “next level.” I define this “next level” as developing more projects (and portfolios) and working hard to exhibit and sell my work. As part of this effort, I just finished a 5-week exhibit run of 32 images of my “In a Different Light” series at Salt Lake City's Anderson-Foothill library. This exhibit explores Utah's infrequently visited West Desert via infrared images. At the same time, I have also (self-) published an “In a Different Light” coffee table book that is available on Blurb. I currently envision this book as being volume 1 of a 3-volume series further exploring the West Desert north and south of the I-80 line. Another current project includes “Rock and Sky: Known and Unknown Southern Utah.” This study has the dual purpose of presenting iconic southern Utah landmarks in a unique fashion as well introducing less recognized landscapes.

While continuing to self-develop my craft and build portfolios, I am also half way through the New York Institute of Photography's self-paced course of instruction. This combination of self-exploration and further technical instruction and guidance, will help me refine my “voice,” that uniqueness that says “created by Jeff Clay.” This is a pursuit that lasts a lifetime and there is no end-goal. Truly, the journey is the path.