

## **Martin Hogan**

### **A primer:**

First and foremost, I am using Flickr as a reference because it will be easier than Instagram. Using these links to reference possible talking points ... if I don't remember, I am hoping both of you can jolt my memory.

A vast collection of images, too many to absorb:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/albums)

An Instagram frustration, often I cannot offer all the information that I would like:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/5133249201/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/5133249201/)

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/5133244705/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/5133244705/)

### **A little background on you ... bio:**

When I first put a camera in my hands, no knowledge or training, I was living in a location in which I was surrounded by navy beans and corn. This rurality was my first subject.

I waffled through some photography classes at college, but never pushed myself into anything with photography. My first camera, an Olympus, was already on the fritz with its electronics by the early 90's. Circa-2000, I bought Nikon to take pictures of my dogs. This was my subject for learning how to expose film.

I did manage to snap some interesting photos before it completely failed:

Detroit's Brush Park

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/albums/72157594318407230](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/albums/72157594318407230)

Others

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/558645156/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/558645156/)

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/558795371/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/558795371/)

### **Where are you located?**

Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **How did you get into this type of photography?**

My mother and I used to drive around the backroads of Kinde and Port Austin, Michigan and look at barns. I was always fascinated by the old, derelict houses. They were everywhere, at that time. Many were on my bus route to and from school. Also, I had a tendency to rummage through the rock piles in the fields ... rusty remnants of farmers' discarded junk.

My mother gifted me the Roy Dodge book on Ghost Towns Of Michigan at some point in the early 80's, due to my interest (the history component of all this).

Two gems within distance of walking, or bicycle, which were on my bus route:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/4393979854/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/4393979854/)

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/17762067204/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/17762067204/)

Circa 2007, something piqued my interest to combine history with pictures. I thought I was alone with rural photography of vacated structures and rural scenarios. I found like-mindedness on an early platform called Flickr. (Today, Instagram and Flickr are visually similar.)

History is always a driving component of what I am doing. My father's mother:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/1658474939/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/1658474939/)

In the town where my father's mother was born, nearby ... the Kilmanagh store is now being restored ... all that patina is now gone.

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/albums/72157603489646775](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/albums/72157603489646775)

It was in 2007 that I undertook my first "overnight photo trip". I followed the Muskegon River upstream into the headwaters to see what is visible from the lumbering era ... nothing ... nothing except some railroad pilings and expired mill structures in the river. I was still shooting film, preferably Fuji Pro160S. A work comrade handed me a Canon 40D to take along, I had never touched a digital camera before. In 2008, I bought my first digital camera. I was determined to learn how to use this stuff. This hobby was born. In 2010, I started a journal of every location I stop to take pictures (my 2008 and 2009 journaling attempts are fraught with mess). I have a "toolbox" of maps and books that help direct my way path around backroads. There is always a plan ... and a soundtrack.

### **What is your favorite subject(s) to shoot?**

The rural vernacular in its native state.

Michigan waterfalls.

I know from listening that you have a keen interest in cars, here's over 500 rusty bundles of joy for you:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/albums/72157600377382721](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/albums/72157600377382721)

### **What equipment do you use?**

Canon 5D series + prime lenses.

I can talk technology but ...

I find the following true for any camera/smartphone: the most important things are proper light for the subject, choosing the proper focal length to establish the field-of-view I would like to capture, exposure and shutter speed. I always come back to this.

### **What is your favorite utility, software, or photo editing trick?**

Adobe Lightroom + Adobe Photoshop.

I try to capture and process what I see and feel from my moment with the subject. That isn't to say I haven't played around with other ideas, because that is also fun.

I have done some printing. It is quite wonderful to see something created four feet wide to hang on a wall (I did this for an individual that resurrected a very derelict building for his business).

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/33335414392/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/33335414392/)

How long have you been doing this?

2007

### **What is the shadiest place you have been?**

I have run into a poacher. How about yelling people who are hiding in their house?

I've had other people take my photos and try to pass them off as their own (an internet shady place).

**What is your favorite story you like to tell from your adventures?**

Travel with a like-minded friend. I've done this in my California and Nevada trips, and a few in Michigan. It jogs the mind and inspires.

I recently had the unfortunate incident of:

ME: Don't step there, it's incredibly slippery. Not kidding.

TOM: I'll be okay.

SPOLOOSH! He goes into the water butt first ... camera held high and not dunked. About a mile off-grid back to the vehicle.

First ER visit began here:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/8690133035/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/8690133035/)

The second ER visit:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/9941799396/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/9941799396/)

**Best place(s) you have been to?**

Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as a whole.

Death Valley and the Amargosa.

I would like to go back to Budapest.

**Worst place(s) you have been to?**

Grand Rapids is a visual dead end. Development has eliminated all structures of interest.

**Best Shot & Why?**

Very hard question.

I am feeling I captured the depth and cold here (note the railing that is waist high):

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/10226885236/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/10226885236/)

A favorite locale. I couldn't visit enough, prior to its razing:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/4226265428/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/4226265428/)

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/4191001219/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/4191001219/)

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/4193577676/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/4193577676/)

**Talk about some of your art shows and exhibitions (if you have done any or have any going on).**

I have done one gallery show.

I have some framed prints at Phillips Orchard, north of St. John, Michigan. (This orchard is still in the family, since the 1850's.)

I have rambling ambitions of a book ... specifically on Michigan's Thumb Area or Windows & Doors.

**Upcoming plans, (shows, photo excursions, etc.) that you might have coming up?**

I am going north for a photography class in February, in the Upper Peninsula ... in winter. Let's hope it remains above 0°F.

**Do you have a couple of people (Instagram photographers, art influences, etc.) to mention**

**for a shout out?**

Too many to name ... they might not even know who I am. And I know I will leave out someone Important. @fistfulofpowder @samasyava @jill\_koop @sierra\_winds @history\_rambler @kirkbride.girl @ruralrevivals @\_bozlo\_ @exploring\_the\_void @rcj82 @teglamsam & @rnld.jansen

**How can people get in touch with you?**

@niquitaspirit via messages on Instagram

It is the names of my first two dogs, Niquita and Spirit (1999):

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee\\_martee/272716726/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartee_martee/272716726/)