

Kurt Weston: Artist Biography / Statement

Kurt Weston, world-class photographer turned blind visionary is a resident of Mission Viejo, California and a Master of Fine Arts graduate from California State University, Fullerton (2008). Once a glamour photographer he would jet to Europe with top makeup artists and hair stylists, transforming models to create the ultimate in style and beauty. His life changed in 1996, when the photographer became legally blind from Uveitis, an inflammatory eye condition which left him totally blind in his left eye and with limited peripheral vision - no central vision in his right eye – permits him to see the world as it appears in an impressionist painting. Weston, now having to negotiate his life living with sight loss began learned new skills at the Braille Institute in Southern California. He learned how to employ the use of low vision magnification devices and adaptive computer technology to continue his work as a photographer and artist. Weston offers recontextualized appropriated fashion imagery layered with illustrative graphic and painterly backgrounds formulated into unique photomontages.

Weston became interested in experimental photographic techniques while pursuing his BA in Creative photography from Columbia College in Chicago, IL. Upon graduating Weston worked as a Fashion photographer which gave him the latitude to continue his experimentation and exploration with evocative styles and techniques. After becoming legally blind, Weston pursued his Master of Fine Arts degree from California State University, Fullerton. Inspired by artists such as Erté, Serge Lutens and Patrick Nagel, Weston pays homage to the art and design of fashion.

Weston's work has been shown in four group exhibits at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington DC; the exhibit ***Sight Unseen*** at the California Museum of Photography - touring internationally since 2009; In 2010 recognized by ***Arts Orange County*** with the Outstanding Artist Achievement Award for his solo exhibition at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center; In 2012 he appeared on national television in an exclusive interview on ***CNN***, highlighting his photographs and advocacy. Weston has been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles. His work is in the permanent collection of The Houston Fine Arts Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, Seton Hall University and Southern California College of Optometry, as well as many private collections. Weston has also been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles as well as several books including his biography "Journey's Through Darkness" by Alina Oswald.