

Kendra Garvin spent the majority of her life Florida, until recent years. First on a houseboat in the keys until she was two, then in Orlando. Once she turned 18 years of age, she whisked herself away to South Florida, Miami Beach in particular. It was here that she attended college and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Her creative endeavors first led her down a career path of doing interior design. Working for an architectural firm that specialized in high end residential and hospitality projects, she was able to put her creative energy into creating spaces for others to enjoy. Here, she was able to work closely with local artists and was inspired by their freedom of expression within their creations. She was impressed with how they were able to dedicate their lives to creating masterpieces in whatever medium and style they felt, and others were lined up waiting to take home one of these unique pieces, whether it be a painting, sculpture, a piece of furniture, lighting, or custom millwork. As much as she loved working within a creative profession, she was limited in her abilities due to the nature of the job. Meaning that what she designed was according to client's ideas and then she was able to build off of those. However, she didn't feel like she had the freedom of expression like she admired in so many of these artists.

Around the time that she was starting to explore other ideas for her next career path, she went SCUBA diving for the first time. Well, this changed everything! She fell in love with the underwater world and came up with the idea of practicing underwater photography. She wanted to bring this world into the lives of others that may not ever experience it any other way. As much as she wanted to directly focus on diving and taking pictures of all the other-worldly creatures, she found to her dismay that she did not have the means to immediately achieve this goal. This realization took her on her next journey. She started taking pictures of everything around her. In doing this, she came to find out that she had an "eye" to see things others did not. As cliché as that sounds, it seems to have been the truth for her. She sees the beauty within all that is natural and wanted to bring this beauty to light for the whole world to see.

When she came to the conclusion to not limit herself to working her way up within the standard corporate ladder/ white-picket fence type lifestyle, it seemed like the whole world opened up! Where did she go? Well, west, of course! She had intended on going to California, however, photography, along with a sense of adventure, life sent her to Alaska instead. This is sort of where her story begins.

In Alaska, the awe inspired her. Everything was beautiful! Also, everything was always changing. Not just with the seasons, but every day there was something new to discover. For one, she was in a place like nowhere else she had ever seen before. And, it was winter! She hadn't experienced a real winter, only a couple of days in her life before. So the dramatically steep, snow-covered mountains rising from the sea and dotted by forests of evergreens blanketed with snow was a far cry from her sand and palm trees back home. Lakes were frozen, the inlet was covered with shifting ice as the tide came and went, moose were about, fires were had, and the ever amazing aurora borealis lit up the night sky. She took pictures as often and for as long as her tiny frozen fingers could stand it.

Spring came and melted everything away. With summer, green emerged from every nook and cranny, covering everything in sight only to be interrupted by colourful wildflowers and wild sweet berries. Glaciers reached down into the turquoise seas where humpbacks playfully breached in the fjords. Wildlife thrived throughout the last frontier, and so did Kendra!

With all of its magnificence, Alaska cannot be recreated through a camera lens. Kendra sought a way to bring her experience and what she felt into the pictures. For this, she looked to her dear old friend, Photoshop. Many look down upon using a software to edit a picture. However, any professional photographer will tell you, this is how you process a digital photograph. In its raw state, colors aren't as bright and contrasts are dull. Plus, it helped that Kendra has more of a formal education in Photoshop than

she does in photography because she took classes throughout college to learn the software, as well as used it daily for four years when doing interior design. She was able to use her knowledge of this software to create the photographic art seen in her 'Psychedelic', 'Kaleidoscopic' and 'Idealistic View' series. "These are my favorite series because I put my soul into creating a scene using the natural elements, but also emphasizing the energy and life force that created the original scene." These pieces are created by taking what exists within the photo and moving the pixels around to create a surreal or idealistic scene.

Sometimes she will take elements from multiple photos and put them together in one picture in order to create the scene she has in her head. Kendra is most proud of these series as they are what define her as an artist and sets her apart from other photographers. Some people have described her scenes as surreal photography. A few inspired souls even see other elements and phantom images within the scenes that she creates, taking it to a whole new level. She loves it when people look at her artwork and perceive something completely different with their own eye. That, to her, is inspiring.