

My Journey of Photography

By Amanda Chen on July 6, 2022

Back in 1997, my study and paper were published by the International



Electrochemistry Society and I was invited to do a presentation at its Symposium to be held in Paris. I couldn't believe it! Paris was my dream city where I had never been to. And it's such a precious opportunity then that I would definitely tour around after the symposium. And then it occurred to me how I could bring back all those wonderful memories and share with my family and friends? At that time, we didn't have smart phones. But my fiancé then (my husband now) gave me a quick "photography 101" lesson and encouraged me to take his Nikon camera and positive films to record the most beautiful and romantic city in the world!

One month later, after returning from the trip, I stood by a slide projector demonstrating at a community book club the photos of Eiffel Tower, Musée du Louvre, Notre Dame...It was as exciting as when I was presenting my study at the symposium. I was so happy that I could bring the beautiful images and enjoy them together with friends. Most importantly, I got to keep them "forever" and refresh my memory whenever I like.

Since then, I have become a photography enthusiast and later, with smart phones so widely used, it was much easier for me to record all the memorable moments. I cannot



freeze time, but whenever I hear the “click” from the camera or phone, I know I get a hold of those moments in my life: the big innocent smile on my happy baby’s face when she was 5 months old, her first ballet dance on stage when she was 6, my grandma’s joyful face when I brought my one-year-old girl to visit her in Taiwan, and the tearful hugs when saying good-bye to my girl at the college campus thousands of miles away from home...

With love for photography, I also developed a habit of hunting and observing the beauty around me. Whether it’s a touching facial expression, a silhouette of people dancing, or a snowy mountain summit under the dawn, I can see and catch them with a “click” so they become eternal. Thanks to the advanced technology nowadays, I took a shot when I walked along the Fraser River after dinner to create an “artwork” with breathtaking sunset on the sparkling river with dozens of lined-up Canada geese. When travelling alone or with family and friends, I would carry my Nikon camera and use different lens to take a close-up of a blossoming rose or a bald eagle standing on a treetop. After the trips, I would edit some of the pictures like artists do to improve them further. This hobby of photography made me happy and relaxed from busy routines of caregiving. It has been an essential part of my life and brought so much fun to me.

Years later, those images will remind me of the places I have been to, the people I have been with, and what a colorful and lovely life I’ve had!

