

Ka Xiong

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

“I am Hmong and grew up in a culture of ceremonies and stories of the spirit world. I started to hear about this spirit world when I was 3 or 4 when the elders would tell us stories to scare us into behaving and not wandering off where we shouldn’t. They were good storytellers and I clearly imagined the ghosts and spirits in my mind. It was even scarier when we knew someone in the village had died and we knew that a spirit was out there and we didn’t want it to scare or harm us.

Recently, coming back from working in the fields I saw shadows in the smoke of a roadside fire that distorted the people caught by my headlights. They didn’t look real but rather like what I had imagined as the ghost and spirit world. Since then I have worked with those same conditions, dark nights away from town with smoke and light, to capture the shadows of people in action to create a feeling in the viewer and trigger their imagination, to lead them into the world that they can not see in everyday life, the world that they can only see in their minds.

Artist Biography

Ka Xiong Laos

My name is Ka Xiong. I am 25 years old; I graduated at Souphanouvong University, majoring in English. I am from a small village named Houyman in Phone Xay District Luang Prabang Province, Laos. I used to work as a part time job @ My Library, a nonprofit organization in Luang Prabang named "@ My Library or The Language Project". I have learned most of my photography from @ My Library. You can find out more about the Language Project here www.thelanguageproject.org

I like doing many things in my life, but here are my favorite hobbies: taking photos, playing sports especially soccer and I also like playing instruments like drums, guitar, and flute. I have been taking photos for 5 years. It is not my job yet, but my hobby and I hope that it will be part of my job in the future. Now I am working as a freelance photographer and cameraman assistant for filming and photography in Luang Prabang, Laos. I like taking photos because it is fun and challenging for me. A photo can explain something instead of a million words. To be a photographer I have to have lots of patience and pay more attention to what I am doing.

I like to take close up photos, especially flowers, night photos, light with smoke and people. I will keep taking photographs in the future, because I would like to learn more about photography and filmmaking. You are welcome to give me advices or comments about my photography and I am sure that every advice and comment that you have for me will improve my photography to be better in the future. Thank You!