

A Holga-Eyed View Of The World; Optics? We Don't Need No Stinkin' Optics!

Back when I was a wee lad, I got my introduction to professional photography by shooting weddings. I remember one of my first when the bride's uncle introduced himself while carrying a brand-new Hasselblad loaded with more accessories than a new Cadillac. He looked at my used and battered Mamiya C33 and just smiled. Can you imagine shooting weddings with a Holga? Well kiddies, that's what Erin Antognoli does. And she is not alone in her passion for this plastic fantastic camera. Join me this month for a Holga-themed stroll across the web and afterward if you decide you just gotta own one of these addictive cameras, you can get yours by searching the web for various outlets. I bought mine at Adorama Camera (www.adorama.com) by plugging "CZHN" into their website's Search function. It's the most fun you can have with photography for \$27.99.



www.erinantognoli.com

While equipment snobs may be surprised that Erin Antognoli photographs portraits and weddings using a Holga, she trumps them with her images and a considerable amount of creativity and talent. The bride doesn't put a photo of a camera in her album, she puts images of people and Antognoli shoots wedding photographs bursting with life and delivered with such gusto and style that you don't care what kind of camera she uses. The Portfolios section contains three collections: "Weddings," "Portraits/Fashion,"

and “Gelatin Relief.” Her monochrome wedding images have the loose, carefree look the Holga encourages, but it takes more than a camera to make photographs and Antognoli’s photographs seem to have one foot in reality and the other in a fantasy world that’s well suited to capturing weddings.



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Her weddings include romantic, sweeping panoramas made using Holga’s unintentionally built-in double-exposure capability that, for purely emotional content, exceed anything made by less talented wedding shooters with more expensive equipment. Antognoli’s black-and-white portrait and fashion work features powerful images made unique with her control over these same techniques but are totally different than her wedding photographs because of the power of her vision. The “Gelatin Relief” images add splashes of color that combine to reach viewers on an intellectual plane as compared to the visceral level of her wedding and portrait work. If you want to learn more about gelatin relief click on her Blog (and keep scrolling), but along the way you’ll see an incredible range of images demonstrating that Antognoli is a genuine talent blessed with insight into the human soul. Her website is powered by liveBooks (www.livebooks.com) and while all their sites tend to look alike, Antognoli’s sensitive photography transcends the low-key design, making it a must-visit destination.

www.michael-bryant.com