

# *To Recreate & Reinvent*

**“Within Earth’s limited space and boundaries,  
I search for photo opportunities.  
When they do come,  
I capture them on my camera,  
With my heart, my mind and my soul.”**  
-- Steven Yee Pui Chung *FPSS, FRPS*

## **On Approach**

“Shoot what you like, with your feelings; Heart, Mind and Soul.” Steven quoted. When he shoots, he likes to immerse himself in the surroundings and be in harmony with the elements within. This is the best way to feel the essence of the place. “As you practice using this approach, you can feel and see the picture forming.” Photographic opportunities appear at random and when least expected, so a photographer has to be fast and alert. Steven’s motto: “Just whack (shoot) it!”

## **On Style**

Many photographers fear of being laughed at when they shoot in a perspective different from others. This is discouraging and unhealthy as the notion and progress of creative photography would be hindered. He believes that every photographer should develop his/her individual style, instead of indulging in conformity with the “norm”.

## **On Equipment**

The camera is just a tool. Aperture and shutter speed are only variables controlling how the final image will appear. While beginners are advised to learn the manual mode of exposure, Steven learnt photography the reverse way thirteen years back. He started experimenting with the Program Mode as he prefers to enjoy photography in terms of composition and colors. Through trial and error, he gained a better appreciation of photography with the help of his mentor, Chua Swee Ping. He stressed on the importance of the final product, and less on the technical aspects like what aperture to use, since these should naturally be “embedded in your head” as you progress.

## **On Digital Photography**

Dubbed ‘The Digital Guy’, Steven believes that the technology wave is unstoppable. “We no longer shoot with brownies, and it is a matter of time that digital medium will replace the film medium. It is a photographer’s dream come true given the convenience of digital technology.” To Steven, the digital sensor is a new medium in photography. In replace of film, images are captured on digital sensors instead. Digital cameras today are capable of producing images that can be enlarged to poster size with Lambda printers.

## **On Learning and Continuous Improvement**

A Chinese proverb says, “There is always a higher mountain than this one.” Learning should not stop. One should continue learning new techniques and the use of new equipment. Surf the web. Visit the virtual galleries. Seeing and studying the works of

others help “broaden” one’s scope on photography. Seek the advice of master photographers and meet up with them regularly for their critique on your works. Accept their criticisms with an open mind.

### **On Motivation**

It is hard to motivate oneself to pursue photography as an art if one does not know what he is shooting for. Steven has seen many of his peers hang up their SLR camera for the compact camera. The motivating factor that has kept Steven going, is the challenge to “*RECREATE & REINVENT*”. Every year, he set himself the “goal” to produce new works based on a particular theme. These motivational goals enable him to enjoy a refreshing experience every year through continuous research and an undying quest in shooting.

### **On going Digital**

Having shot more than 1,300 rolls of negatives and slides over the years, Steven is sick of conventional film. He has scanned most of his favourite works into Kodak PhotoCD format for archival. He is currently using a digital SLR which is able to use lenses from his conventional SLR. Digital photography, to Steven, is just a new medium as the fundamentals of conventional photography still applies, except that digital film is being used for the digital camera. It is like a dream come true for Steven as he has been waiting for this day for a long time. Having the images as computer files allow Steven to have better control over his image archive system and no more worry of “losing negatives or slides”.

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PRESS RELEASE

## **Steven Yee sets two new records!**

He became the first member ever to gain the PSS Fellowship and the youngest Singaporean admitted as a Fellow of RPS.

**W**ithin three days, The Photographic Society of Singapore’s Honorary Secretary, Steven Yee Pui Chung has received two “good news”. On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2003, he got news of being the first successful applicant for the PSS Fellowship, since the distinction was introduced 30 years ago. Three days later, he was informed by The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (RPS) that he was successful in his Fellowship application. That makes him the youngest Singaporean to achieve the “Royal” distinction at the age of 24, erasing the record set by another PSS member Mun Chor Koon who got his in 1969 when he was 29.

Born on 11 Feb 79, Steven had his first experience with the camera when he was 9. He got his first success in 1997, when he won a gold medal in the Minneapolis St Paul

(USA) International Salon. He then went on to attain both the PSS and RPS Associateships in 1999.

In 2000, Steven held his first one-man show, *Images from My Heart, My Mind, and My Soul*, at Selegie Arts Centre's Loke Wan Tho Gallery. The following year, he had a joint exhibition, *Melodies of Life*, with his mentor Chua Swee Ping.

His next solo exhibition, which shares the same title as his pictorial and strategy book *Reflection In the Bamboo Grove: Suntzu* (published in 2002), will be held at Selegie Arts Centre on 13-26 Jun 03. The exhibition shall be launched by Prof Er Meng Hwa, Deputy President of Nanyang Technological University, with special guests in Mr David PC Tay, President of The Photographic Society of Singapore and Dr Foo Check Teck, Associate Professor at Nanyang Technological University and award winning writer on strategy.