

Find Your Vision

Thanks to the amazing job Serge does as the Programs Director for WPS we have one spectacular speaker after another at our meetings. And one of the positive side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been our Zoom meetings where we have been able to invite speakers from geographically distant places. Last night's program knocked it out of the park again: Cole Thompson came to us from his home in Colorado and gave an awesome inspirational talk illustrated with many of his projects.

He talked about finding your vision and not listening to what other people think your vision should be, or what "rules" you should follow, and that certainly one should not copy someone else's vision. He shared an anecdote from his early days when his photography imitated Ansel Adams. A critic told him "Ansel already did Ansel. What can you do that exhibits your unique vision?" That led to a sudden epiphany, and as he put it, he didn't want to be known as "the world's greatest Ansel Adams imitator".

Lately generative AI has been in the news everywhere. ChatGPT has been all over the mainstream press, most recently on the cover of the current (February 27th) issue of Time Magazine. Before that, everyone was talking about OpenAI's DALL-E 2.

While I certainly don't want to be the world's greatest Cole Thompson imitator, inspired by him, I thought I'd have a little fun with DALL-E and see what I could do. So with the prompt, "A moody high contrast black and white portrait of a cat in the style of Cole Thompson with long exposure motion blur clouds and ocean in the background" I got:



Meow, Sitting for Portrait

Scary, huh?

So, what's your vision? I hope you share some of your images in our Member Showcase meetings, or even here in our newsletter.

Till next time, may you always see beauty in your viewfinder.

–Fuat Baran, President