



ECLECTIC EXPLORATIONS

Photography by Martha Retallick

INTRODUCTION

If I were to use one word to describe myself, I would say “eclectic.” I bring this eclecticism to my photography. In the following pages, you’ll see 36 examples of my work in nature, sports, and documentary photography.

BOTANICAL PHOTOGRAPHY

As a photographer with an interest in botany, it's my nature to use the camera for things that the human eye isn't good at seeing – like the selective use of depth of field and focusing on specific characteristics I find outstanding. I'm also interested in patterns, texture, surface, and detail. Ultimately, I'm aiming to capture the surprise and delight of temporal beauty, like feathery senna flower blossoms momentarily bejeweled by raindrops or a ripening fig surrounded by brilliant autumn leaves.

While many nature photographers enjoy traveling to distant forests, prairies, mountains, and deserts, I prefer to stay home and capture the beauty of my very urban Tucson yard. The first seven photos show the plant life that's growing around me and the birds that have made my place theirs. The next three are from Pennsylvania, where I was born and raised.



Feathery Senna Blossoms. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Feathery Senna Flowers. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Figs in Rain. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Hesperaloe Flowers. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Blossoming Aloe Vera Flowers. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Autumn Figs. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Super-Furry Cantaloupe. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Purple Coneflowers. Photo © 2018 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Jack in the Pulpit. Photo © 2018 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Wind Before the Storm. Photo © 2018 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.

BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

There are plenty of photos of brightly colored birds set against buttery soft backgrounds. That's not what I do.

Here in the city, the avian photo opportunities are very different, because we have *urban* birds.

Urban birds seize our built environment and use it for their own purposes. In this section, I'll show you how this concept works at my place.



On the Wire. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Mourning Doves. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Lovey Doves. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Junior Aviators. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.

BIKE-TOGRAPHY

When I was in my early twenties, I set the goal of bicycling through all 50 of the United States. It only took 12 years – and more than 15,000 miles – to reach the finish line. Traveling without the protective bubble of a vehicle provided a wonderful opportunity to see, hear, feel, and smell the world around me.

Add to this the minimalist nature of bicycle travel. Having limited carrying space forced me to rely on as little photo gear as possible. On my bike, I only had room for one camera body and one lens. So, that's what I worked with. And, quite often, I still do. I like to call this approach “Bike-tography.” It's the art of combining bicycling with photography, with emphasis on perspective and patterns in the images.

This section begins with a visit from the Spokes Hopper that joined me for a break along one of the oldest roads in America, U.S. 40 in eastern Ohio. The next eight photos are from various cycling events here in Tucson.



Spokes Hopper. Photo © 1981 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Freestyling. Photo © 2010 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Final Sprint. Photo © 2010 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Teammates. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Winner, 2019 Tour de Tucson. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



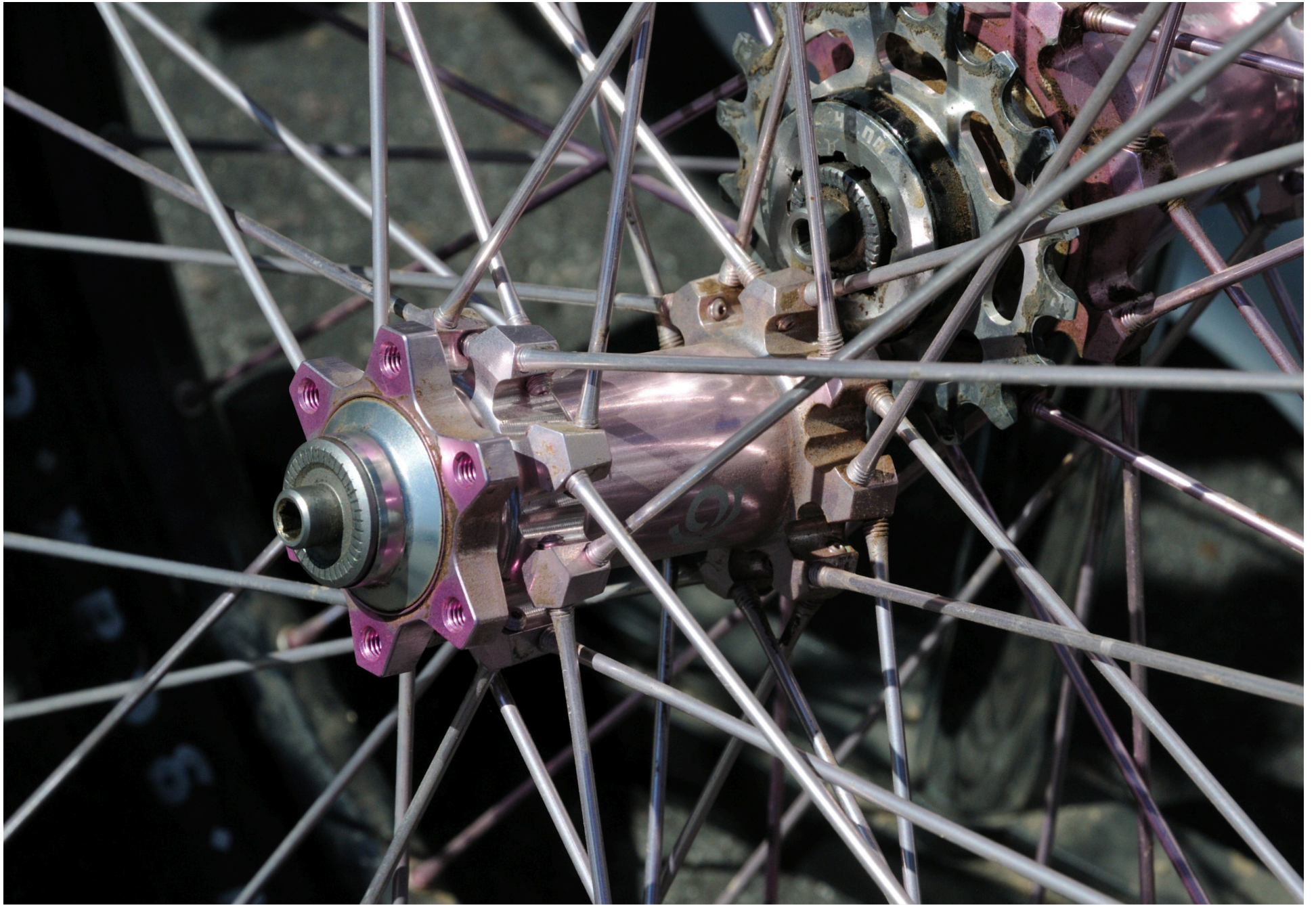
Armory Park Serenade. Photo © 2015 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Cooked. Photo © 2011 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Classic Bike Exhibit. Photo © 2011 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Pretty in Pink. Photo © 2011 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.

DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

I'm drawn to documentation projects that feature people in action. They're building and renovating houses, creating or improving landscapes, or making and fixing things. I especially enjoy the juxtaposition of raw physical labor with machines in motion.

In this section, you'll see a chronological documentation of my own home improvement. The first three photos show the installation and operation of a greywater harvesting system that directs washing machine water to three backyard fruit trees. Next, you'll see an important part of many projects, demolition. This is followed by five photos that document the addition of a rainwater harvesting cistern and front yard earthworks that keep rainfall on the property, and slowly soaking into the ground. The final two photos show the results of one of my favorite pastimes, upcycling.



Installing Greywater Lines in My Back Yard.
Photo © 2017 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Greywater Emitter. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Greywater Overflow. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Removing Old Front Walk. Photo © 2017 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Cutting Cistern Plumbing Pipe. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Leak-Proofing Pipe Threads. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Rain Gutter Installation. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Priming Cistern. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Building Earthworks. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Upcycled Plant Stands. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Found Object Collage. Photo © 2020 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Martha Retallick is an award-winning documentary photographer and journalist. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Michigan and has done additional coursework in graphic design as well as building and construction technologies at Pima Community College in Tucson.

Martha has freelanced as a commercial photographer, web and graphic designer, and business consultant. She has also worked on the editorial staffs of three different publications.

As a fine art photographer, Martha has hosted her own solo photography exhibitions and has been included in group shows at Tucson's Raices Taller 222 Art Gallery & Workshop and the Tohono Chul botanical garden.

In addition, Martha volunteers as vice president of her neighborhood association, as a citizen scientist through weather monitoring, as a host for a Tucson-based environmental organization's annual home and garden tour, and as an undergraduate admissions interviewer and case competition judge for the University of Arizona Eller College of Management.

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Snow Pea Flower. Photo © 2019 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.



Cilantro. Photo © 2021 Martha Retallick. All rights reserved.