

“In-Conversation”

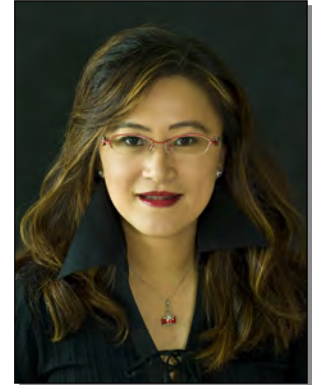
February 2014

Featuring

Agatha Anne Bunanta

Award winning photographer

MBA, ARPS, MPSA, EFIAP, UPI Crown 4, A.FPSI



Interview conducted by
PhotoVivo.com

ABOUT AGATHA BUNANTA

Agatha Bunanta is a business woman and celebrated photographer hailing from Indonesia. Her passion and talent in photography brought her much accolades' from all over the world. She has created many personal records for being the first Indonesian lady to achieve several distinctions and spear headed many photography projects which received very positive response. In many ways, she can be considered the role model for ladies in Indonesia photography.

More about her can be found in www.agathabunanta.com

Questions:

How did you get started in photography?

I love to travel. Every time I travel, I like to take pictures of the beauty of places that I had visited. It was just using a camera pocket. Since 2003, I tried to be more serious in taking pictures, and took some basic photography courses and bought my first DSLR Camera.

Being a member of photography clubs or community helps me to learn many new things and motivate myself to be better and better. To be “better”, not to be the “best”. Because once you think you are the “best” then the learning process will stop.

What motivated you to go beyond amateur photography into serious amateur photography?

Everything is a process, a journey. It started just as a “ordinary” hobby as I like to travel. Since I also like arts, photography becomes a media for me to express my artistic feelings. It is also a media to express who I am.

It became embedded in me and turns into my passion.

Since 2005, I started to join international salon competition and received many medals and distinctions. I also gradually got involve in serving the photography community.

In 2010 and 2012, I was the founder and the chairperson of the 1st and the 2nd Indonesia Salon of Art Photography (ISAP), the first international salon in Indonesia who received patronage from The Photographic Society of America (PSA), International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) and The Royal Photographic Society (RPS).

What are the motivating factors that kept you going in photography till today, given your tight schedule juggling between your work, family and hobby?

I have my busy schedule as a business woman, owner of a hotel in the beautiful Bali island, Indonesia.

Someone asked me, how do you control everything between photography, working and family?

My answer to him: out of control... 😊

At the end of the day, you just need to have a balanced life.

After having photography as a hobby for almost 10 years, photography becomes a passion in my life and something that will last long.

It is not only for the sake of my hobby, but how can I share and improve the photography community in Indonesia. Becoming the Photographic Society of America (PSA) Region Director /Liason Officer for Indonesia and Founder and the Chairperson of Royal Photographic Society (RPS) Indonesia Chapter are some of my initiatives to share with the community.

What are your thoughts of being one of the very few but very accomplished lady photography in Indonesia?

Photography has already become part of my life, a medium to express my artistic feelings, a medium to broader my vision, a medium to share with others, a medium to meet many new friends.

Since I am one of the most active Indonesian photographers in international salon photography in Indonesia, I introduce, teach, help and encourage many Indonesia photographers to get more exposure in international photography and get international photography distinction like PSA, FIAP, RPS.

This is the time to share my experiences and knowledge to others.

What are your experiences in joining Salons like, and what advice would you give to beginners in Salon photography?

Joining salon (exhibition and competition) is an addiction... after you join once, you want to join another...☺

It motivates you not only to produce more pictures and but better pictures.

However, we need to be careful not to be trapped in the competition that creates good pictures only for a competition.

Joining many international salons will broader your artistic view since you see many pictures from different countries.

My advice : With the numerous salon competition these days, choose the salon competition that you think suitable for you. Learn other people photos from the catalogues. Don't afraid to loose. Sometime you win, sometimes you lose. That is a competition.

Over the years, which specialization in photography do you specialize in?

I like to take pictures of human interest, people daily life and their culture events. It is amazing to learn other people's cultures and learn more about the life itself.

How do you see the trend and growth of photography in Indonesia?

Indonesia is a big and growing country with cultural diversity. We are famous for our artistic talents. Indonesian Photographers like to take pictures of the cultural events, landscape, animals, underwater, almost every aspects of photography.

With the ease of digital photography technology and growing economy, photography become one of the most popular hobbies in Indonesia.

The growing camera shops in Indonesia, proved that more and more Indonesians are getting serious in photography.

There are lots of photo clubs and community in Indonesia. People get many options and they can choose which club or community that suit their interest.

Since we conducted the first Indonesia Salon of Art Photography (ISAP2010) and I shared my experiences to my club members and others, more and more Indonesian photographers know about international salon and motivate them to join and compete in international salon. Also more Indonesian Photographers gain the distinctions. I am sure that Indonesian Photographers will soon play an active role in international salon and other competitions, be it in participation, organising and its promotion.

Also, since our Club (Candra Naya Photographic Society) was awarded the highest award in Trierenberg 2013 as the Best Club Worldwide Trophy, which is the first time in history that an Indonesia Photo Club received such award, it become an eye opener for the other communities and motivate them to be active in the international salon.

What advice would you give to photographers who like to take up this hobby more seriously and learn more?

Learn from others, keep learning.

Read many arts and photography books. Visit the art exhibitions : not only photography but painting exhibitions, installation and others art exhibitions.

Join the photography community, learn from your seniors and your friends.

Sharing experiences with others. Compete and not afraid to loose. Be humble and think positively. Accept critics and most important things : Have Fun in every process...

Selected Works









Agustina



Alcatraz





Alvin Pantoja





