

Biographies – Charles & Melissa Needle

Charles Needle is an award-winning, Colorado-based fine art photographer, author, speaker and workshop leader with a unique eye for design and artistic interpretation. His popular “Art of Nature” creative macro workshops have attracted students nationwide.

In 2018 and 2021, Charles earned honorable mentions in the Macro and Visual FX categories of the prestigious Annual International Mobile Photography Awards Contest. He was also a semi-finalist in the 2014 Nature’s Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards photo contest. In 2011, Charles was selected as a finalist, among 15,000 entries worldwide, in the International Garden Photographer of the Year photography contest, sponsored by The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London, England). This exhibition traveled throughout the United Kingdom.

A popular conference and camera club speaker for more than two decades, Charles has authored three cutting-edge instructional books: *Tiny Worlds: Creative Macro Photography Skills* (Amherst Media, January 2015), *Impressionistic Photography: A Field Guide to Using Your Camera as a Paintbrush* (March 2014), and *Creative Macro Photography: Professional Tips & Techniques* (2011).

An accomplished speaker, photography juror and teacher with international workshops in Monet's Garden (Giverny, France for 20 years in a row, with exclusive private access), Keukenhof Gardens (Holland) and The Butchart Gardens (Canada), Charles is a North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) Showcase Award winner for 18 years in a row, and placed in the Top Ten and Top 24 image categories for three of those years.

Charles’ photographs have been selected for publication in *Nature’s Best*, *Outdoor Photographer* magazine, *Nature Photographer* magazine, *Inner Reflections Engagement Calendar*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *SELF Magazine* and are in private and public collections nationwide and abroad.

To learn more about Charles' work, including his workshop and private lesson offerings, visit www.charlesneedlephoto.com.

Melissa Needle is a part-time professional photographer who started her journey at the age of 12 with the family camera. She has lectured on smartphone photography at numerous camera clubs and at the New England Council of Camera Clubs annual conference. She currently leads the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (MA) smartphone specialty group. She has assisted her husband, Charles, in workshops, classes and zoom sessions since 2016. She enjoys literal image making but really enjoys exploring her creative side with various smartphone apps. Her smartphone images have been recognized with various awards including a Top-24 Image Award in the 2020 North American Nature Photography Association Member Showcase Competition.