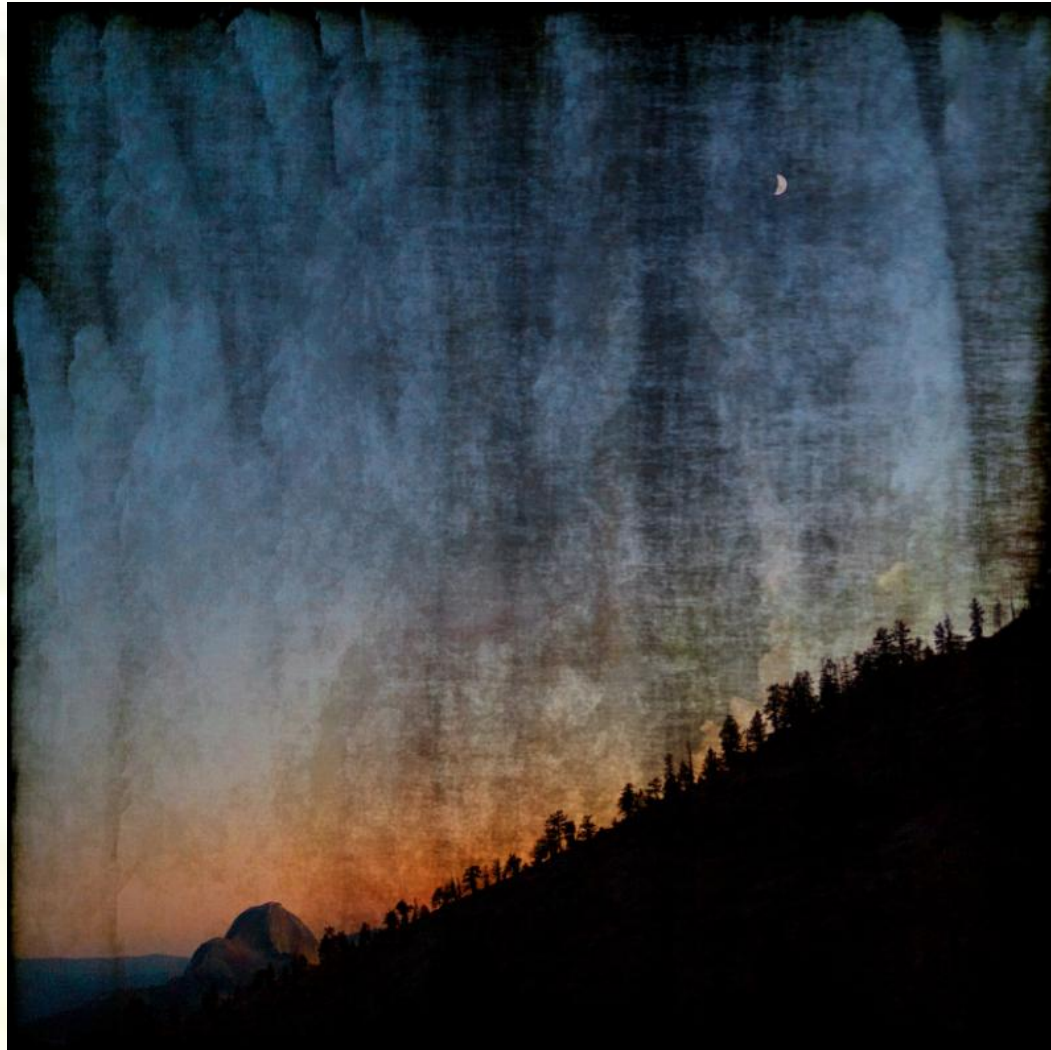


# 16 IMAGES: RECOUNTING FAVORITE IMAGES OF 2012



  
Lech Naumovich  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# 16 IMAGES: 2012

**T**his small little PDF booklet celebrates what went right in 2012. These are moments when my artistic self and technical self were cooperating. It doesn't always happen this way, but every so often, I just feel like the stars aligned.

As I grow as a professional photographer, I continue to mold, refine (ehem, create) the style for my body of work. This "style" must be both true in function and form. Content is integral, but it is lonely without a cohesive aesthetic that makes the viewer hunger for more images, more stories... more information. Following that desire for more information is empathy, interest, and hopefully a connection to something that is good: be it love, or passion for the environment, or a better understanding of stewardship, or maybe it's just a good laugh.

So I shoot all sorts of stuff. Why? Because, I'm genuinely interested in the people (or entity) who have created the moment. Weddings, botanical excursions, restoration ecology, urbanism – it's all here. If you don't like it, just hope for better and turn the page. (I hope that's not the case).

With each image I provide a bit of insight<sup>1</sup> into the form and function I see coming together to create what I consider to be some of my most quintessential images of 2012.

Please do let me know what you think.

Sincerely,

Lech

January, 2013 ©Lech Naumovich Photography, 2012

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<sup>1</sup> please note that some insight is longer... and some more concise.



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PHOTOGRAPHY



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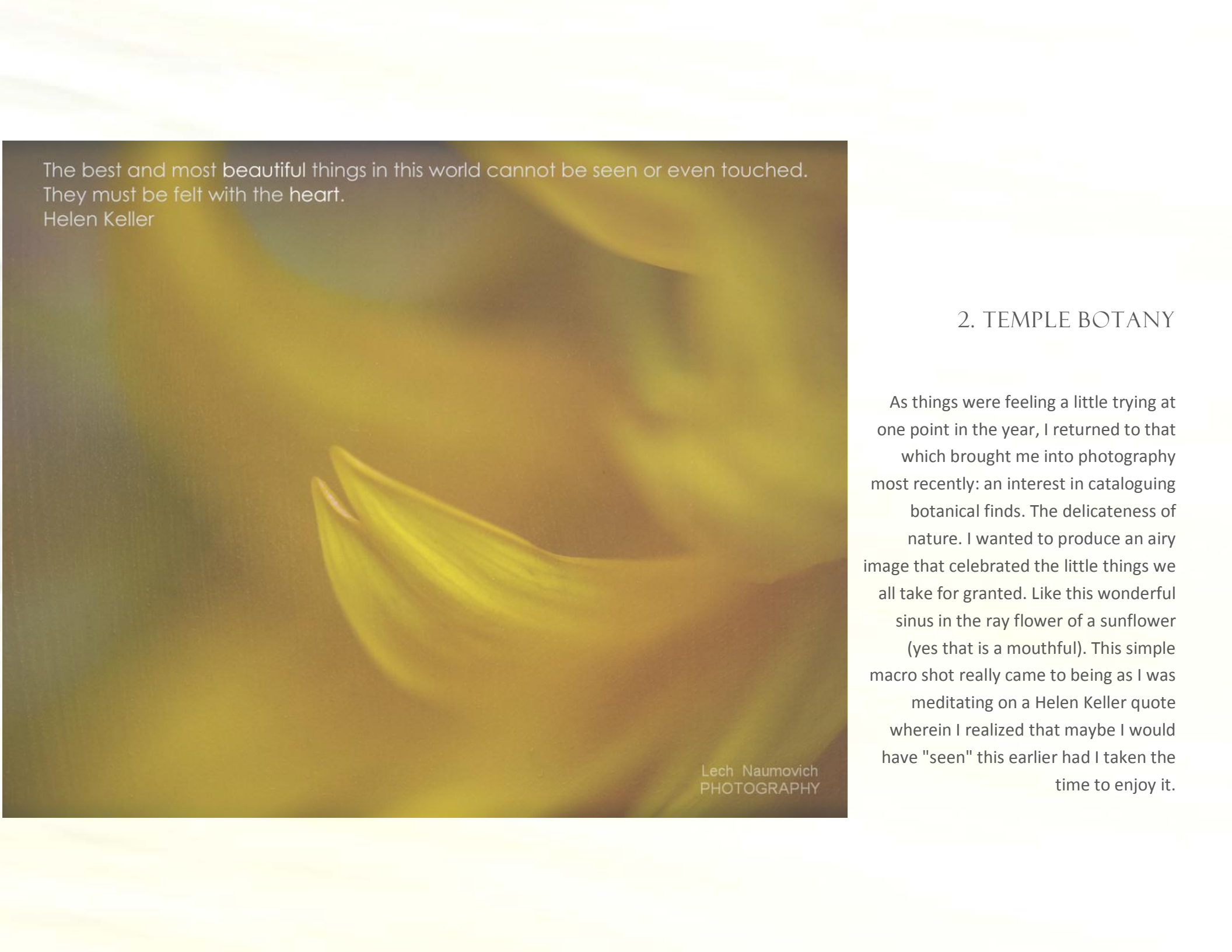


## 1. EXPECTANT MOTHER

I think that some photos just happen. After fudging with the light, the backdrop, and trying to keep the beautiful mother-to-be happy, it just happened. A slight turn of the light, a small in camera exposure adjustment and in her patience and kindness we created this warm, pensive photo filled with giddy, but quiet expectation.







The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even touched.  
They must be felt with the heart.  
Helen Keller

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## 2. TEMPLE BOTANY

As things were feeling a little trying at one point in the year, I returned to that which brought me into photography most recently: an interest in cataloguing botanical finds. The delicateness of nature. I wanted to produce an airy image that celebrated the little things we all take for granted. Like this wonderful sinus in the ray flower of a sunflower (yes that is a mouthful). This simple macro shot really came to being as I was meditating on a Helen Keller quote wherein I realized that maybe I would have "seen" this earlier had I taken the time to enjoy it.



### 3. POINT MOLATE YOUTH

In the past few years, I've been lucky to be part of an enormous environmental justice success. A multi-billion dollar casino proposal had set its sights on one of the most needy Bay Area communities. Richmond's Point Molate was destined to import "whales"<sup>2</sup> while destroying any sort of habitat for sharks, and other Bay Area fishes for that matter. Point Molate, a biologically rich assemblage of Bay Area habitats that only exist in the preserves, probably should be gone. Instead, the community stood up and rallied like nothing I've ever seen. With the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations silenced with fiscal promises from the developer, the deal was all but sealed. Needless to say, now there are local children celebrating earth day on the beach.

I guess that little fish made it out okay.

See [www.cfspm.org](http://www.cfspm.org) for more info.

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<sup>2</sup> Whales are high rollers in gambling terms.







#### 4. FAMILY UNIT

I was ecstatic when this family wanted to step out into the foothills of the Mt. Diablo area. This area is THE backdrop of the East Bay. The rich oak savanna is amazing at all times of year. I cherish oaks for their permanence, durability and pure vastness. Oaks epitomize strength. Learn more about oak conservation at [www.californiaoaks.org](http://www.californiaoaks.org).



## 5. OLD GROWTH

Here are two of my favorite people taking a moment to relax on buckeye tree that has blessed the University of California-Berkeley campus for some 100 plus years. Not bad for a tree that normally doesn't make it much beyond 30 or so.

Both of these folks have dedicated their lives to understanding and improving our relationship with the natural landscape.





## 6. READY

This wedding rocked.  
There's a levity  
in this picture that I wish I  
could capture  
at each and every wedding I  
do, but in fact,  
many weddings are  
stressful (hopefully  
not because of the  
photographer!), and  
these moments aren't quite  
as pure in form.  
This was truly an all out  
celebration with  
some of the most creative  
and witty  
vows I've ever heard.







## 7. WET SLOPPY ONE

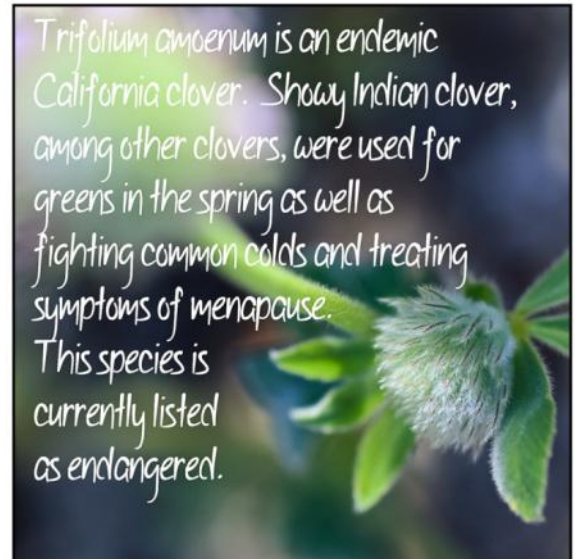
Sierra Nevada. Heart of the summer. Blessed heat.



Please note that no one went for a swim on their wedding day (accidentally that is).

## 8. ETHNOBOTANY AND RARITY

It's actually impossible, by definition, to overvalue what plants mean to human existence. From the base function of energy to the spiritual and medicinal value of rare foliage, plants have allowed us to create the quality of life we've come to depend upon. Sadly, much of our native flora, the signature of place, is fading due to human impact. Here I try to tie together some critical ethnological values with botanical ones. Clovers blooms are created of hundreds of quite inconspicuous little flowers, but upon closer examination they are packed with architectural nuance and geometric wonder. Learn more about conserving native flora (of California) here: [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org).







## 9. SMITTEN BRIDE

This celebrates that moment when you've realized you are standing next to the one you love and know that you've both made a commitment for life. Bliss.





## 10. STAIR WELL

I was lucky enough to do my first City Hall wedding this year. Funny enough, I never imagined they would be much fun, but in fact the constraint of time along with the austerity of place and vibrancy of culture was inspiring. I loved every second of their wedding, and the experience was like no other for both the couple, and me. This was a simple moment in transit post ceremony.





II. BIG OAK - BIG BELLY This is a couple that I know and treasure dearly as friends, and although maternity photos took some coaxing, we created a set of ideas that would celebrate a sense of place while minimizing skin and big-belly pictures. (Although, we did end up taking a few of those too!) This was one of the first exposures of our session together, celebrating the valley oak and family.





## 12. A MAN AND HIS LARVAE

Dr. Stuart Weiss is a well known lepidopterist who has helped save a beautiful and important butterfly species known as the Bay Checkerspot. He loves his butterflies and has been working with them for almost 30 years. Stu also has a personality that needs its own zip code. Needless to say, this photograph during the post-diapause larval season was so appropriate (Stu always wears that shirt during the proper time of year). Read more about some of Stu's amazing work reported here in Bay Nature Magazine: <http://baynature.org>



### 13. MOONRISE OVER SUNSET

After going on an Ansel Adams binge (for the two hundredth time), I was inspired to create something a little different than his distinctly sharp and detail rich photos. Something that would be a bit more airy and that would celebrate textures of the landscape as well as forms. I was fortunate to be at Olmstead Point with a beautiful moonrise-sunset co-occurring. The air was sweet, warm and quiet in the August air. This picture combines a TTV (through the viewfinder) border and a wall texture that were post-processing in using Photoshop.







## 14. WORKING WOMAN

As much as I love the endearing nature of maternity , sometimes it's good to take a moment off to recognize some of the humor and humility that comes with the process of bearing a child. There's also a tremendous amount of work that comes with being pregnant. For starters, how about carrying around an extra 30-40 pounds a day, all day long.

In this shoot, we had some fun with power tools and played a bit with cultural lines creating a working woman in a backyard/suburban scene who is obviously mis-dressed for her sawing date.

We finished the photo with a crossprocessed feel to add to the "nostalgia".





15. ALT CURVE This is Altride, a very special carbon-free event I've been lucky to bike & photograph. Get inspired: <http://www.altride.org/>





## 16. A ROMANTIC FINISH

One of the most rewarding finishes to a wedding night is a ridiculously fun dance party. Yes, I do get up and dance, so if you want your wedding photographer to be a square, please don't call me!

Yes, I will be taking pictures when dancing, but I plan on doing something creative with them. Here's the wedding couple partying away. I took this photo as a long exposure - about 1 second - to allow for me to blur the lights into circles (Yes, I can do hearts, but come-on that's cheesy).

This is one of many finishes that I offer to couples, something a little off-beat for those fun moments, celebrating the timelessness of the event.