

Photography offers an extremely wide range of possibilities---where "level of expertise" is concerned. It ranges from the "art form" which is dependent on the throwaway camera, to what Ansel was able to coax from some rather crude (by current standards) tools of his trade. Do you consider what he did to be art, or is art not possible to achieve---by anybody---using only light, lenses and chemicals?

Ansel used the science of photography--some of which *he* derived--to help him implement a print of the scene that he saw in his head when looking at a landscape in the wild. I think his methods and his results--and some of his ideas--are artful. His prints were always *scientifically* very well made (exposure, contrast, brightness, etc.). A lot of photography is mere recording, however masterful the record might be\*. Other ideas are sheer genius. His print *Moonrise Over Hernandez*--a stroke of luck with regard to timing--is exceptionally beautiful. Some of his compositions are inspiring--I've learned a lot about "image management" from studying his prints in books.



\*An ivory carving in the Cluny Museum in Paris. I wanted to look at it some more, so I made a photo.

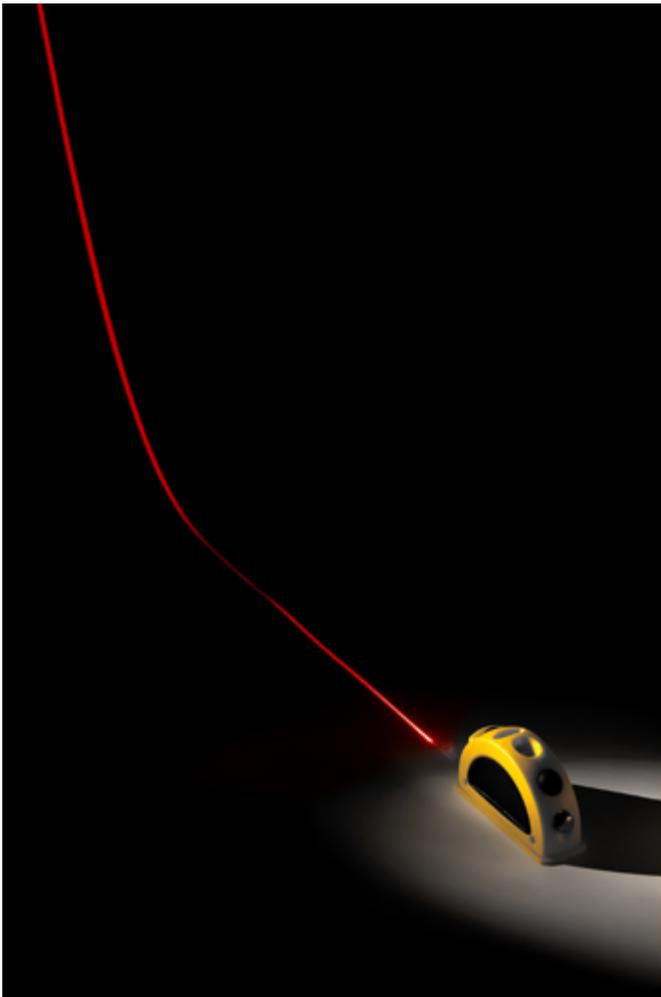
I think one practices his trade, accomplishing ideas as they come, and every now and then produces something truly remarkable. Even "artists" don't produce A-level work at every try. A lot of it is merely interesting...or not. Some ideas seem good but die upon implementation resulting in something mediocre, inane (but which stays in the oeuvre). Other ideas seem to have infinite possibilities of growth, spawning other, related, ideas, etc., and a series of prints, sculptures, paintings (or all of the aforementioned) might result.

The "art" community will give credence to someone who builds a large body of work no matter the quality level of it. If the general public might see the work as juvenile, it will be

categorized as "primitive" or "folk art," respectable sobriquets in the art world. Trying hard counts if an overwhelming (in numbers, physical size) body of work is the result. The art world is intimidated by diligence and prolific production, and loves a series of works on a theme.

If you made a colored-pencil drawing every day for five years of the (*same*) scene outside your window, and the paper was neat and tidy with right-angle corners (not torn), labelled with a name (#1, #2, etc., is okay) and date, and you signed every one, the art world would find a place for your work, and people would start buying it. You would have shows. People would buy several even though they are of the same scene, and they would hang in people's houses as groups.

I have some ideas that I think are artful, and would produce artful results in prints, which I have not yet been able to implement--usually for lack of provisions.



ROBIN NOTICED THE PROBLEM  
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY

I think this is an interesting/amusing idea since the beam is a laser but it is not straight--which is the primary characteristic of a laser beam. I used above average technical ability in creating it--I pride myself on knowing about the scientific as well as the artful side of photography (I learned photography from Ansel's books), since science allows me to implement (and gives me) some of my more complex ideas. (That cartoon residing in the back of my mind might have influenced me.)



I made this image of a very interesting subject with my phone. The quality of the equipment might be somehow limiting, but in the realm of ideas one can create something equally artful with cheap or expensive equipment. I call this artful because it strikes me as exciting/fun/uninhibited/free-moving, infinite in depth, etc. I enjoy very much looking at it. That is probably enough for now.

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