



Moose in Pure Light

My husband, Ken, and I first met on the Internet. For ten years I had been quite comfortable and satisfied with myself as a single woman. What I did occasionally long for was a quiet, intimate conversation with a man. I didn't want the bother of an actual relationship. I just wanted to have a man friend to talk with.

What I did not want was a man that would try to beguile me with stories of the huge bass he had caught, or the new custom wheels on his pickup truck.

One Saturday evening I received an email. "Have you ever chatted with someone in Alaska?" it read. No, I hadn't but I would like to was my response.

Alaska seemed a safe distance from Las Vegas, where I had recently moved to be closer to my daughter and grandsons. Besides, the worst that could happen is that I might get a photo of this guy standing beside his pickup with the big mouth bass he just caught.

It turned out differently. His first email back to me asked about my art. In the next four lengthy emails that we exchanged we talked about the nature of pure light.

I described my silk art and my continuing quest for a form of light that would enhance the organic fabric, and its union with the forms and colors I had created on it.

He got it. He understood what I was searching for when I said “pure light.” It is the essence of life distilled from the many forms it embraces. Pure light is a spontaneous, dynamic verb, not a mere noun.

“Are you an artist?” I asked. He said not. “How is it that you understand what I mean by pure light?” His answer then was obscure. Much later I learned that he too had been on a journey to understand the nature of pure light. His was a quest resulting from a near death experience.

Visitors often come to Alaska looking for the trophy photo of an animal the wild. Alaska is a sacred space where spirits have their being in many forms, sometimes as animals.

If you are quiet and patient, and fortunate you may be visited by such a spirit.

Perhaps you will recognize the form even as the hue changes before you. And you will see a moose in pure light.

By Ken Jones

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What Are Alaska Digital Batiks by Francine?

Batik is an art form, traditionally done on fabric using hot wax and dye, which gives the image a crackled look.

This series of photographs synthesizes my love of silk painting, digital art, and photography with my experience as an artist new to the majesty of Alaska.

<http://artbyfrancine.com/>