

PACO PEREGRIN

was born in Almeria, Spain - He has a Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts from Seville University, and his work is recognized at centres of prestige around the world such as International Center Of Photography (NYC), Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design (London), and the Andalusian Centre of Contemporary Art to name a few. Paco took time out of his busy schedule to enlighten us on a few things about...‘fine art’.

Interview

By Hillary Hunt

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Where you born?
I was born in Almería, Spain.
Where do you reside now?
Madrid but I travel a lot.
How old were you when you first started taking photos?
I do not remember how old I was. I was a child or a teenager.

What or who inspired you to consider photography?

Nobody. I was going to be a painter but I studied artistic photography the last two years of my career because since I was a kid I was interested in art, communication and visual creation.

How old were you when you received your first editorial assignment?

The dates. Well I imagine that when I left Seville, where I studied Fine Arts, and came to Madrid in 1999 or 2000.

Hate

As a professional photographer is there anything about shooting you dislike? Long hours?

Incompetence? Working with amateurs? etc...

I do not mind working hard for many hours because I have a great capacity for work but I can not stand the incompetence of some clients or art directors who are not professionals. I prefer to work with people who risk with new proposals.

Have you ever worked with models/celebrities where you were like "God I hate this?"

Yes, a few times, so each time I am more selective about my work and the models.

Do not say anything to them, ignore them is better. Is their any part of industry politics you strongly dislike?

I can not stand people who work for cronyism and has no personality or criteria.

Rumors

Rumor has it your a really nice guy to work with, do you prefer a light spirited environment to work in or is everything 'dead' serious when your on the set?

I'm usually a really nice guy to work with. You can ask the models and all my team. It is very easy to work with me. I prefer a light spirited environment to work in but at the same time when I work I am very serious and concentrated. The night before work I always prepare my equipment, review the job details and go to bed soon. I am very friendly but at work I try to be very professional too.

As a photographer you've been rumored 'NOT' to have slept with models. Care to tell us why?

I am a professional. I never use my position as a photographer to seduce. That would be an abuse of power. Then what I do in my life separate from my work with models or whoever is my business. **Their is a rumor that you despise, 'Catalog' work vs 'High Fashion' editorials. Is this true?**

No. it is not try, but I prefer to work with clients

who respect my work and allow me to contribute my point of view. I love 'High Fashion' magazines.

Money

How much money was your first pay check as a starting photographer?

Just enough to pay rolls of pictures and my transportation.

What was your highest paid shoot?

My last big ad campaigns.

What would you say is your unique selling advantage?

Everyone is different and everyone has a personal way of doing things, a different point of view that makes us unique

What drives you more, Love or Money?

Love.

What medium pays more for your work 'Print' or 'Digital'?

Print.

Do you find more work on your own, or do you prefer working with a 'photo rep' agencies?

It depends on the work. Is usually more comfortable for me that the agent responsible for the negotiation and production.

Envy/ Jealousy

Have you ever been jealous of another photographer during the earlier stages of your career?

Not jealousy but admiration.

Who is your biggest competitor in this industry?

I have no competitors, each photographer is different and has his own market.

Ever looked at high fashion campaigns or magazine covers and think, I could have done better?

Yes, I confess.

Have you ever experienced Jealousy because of your success?

Many people have plagiarized and has criticized me for no reason but I will not spend energy on criticizing them.

Date

Single?

I have a relationship.

Have you ever dated a 'agency model'?

No, I have not.

If you could date one supermodel who would it be and why?

Supermodels are very complicated for intimate relationships.

Is it difficult to date while working within this industry. Why?

It depends on you.

Do you find having a intimate relationship, tough to keep up?

It is hard to keep a relationship but it is possible.

Love

Is shooting editorials still a thrill? If so why? If not, why not?

My job is very exciting. I keep putting myself nervous before each shooting and I hope I never lose that nervousness.

Has a shoot ever gotten too hot and led up to a very sexy night?

After work I usually am exhausted physically and intellectually.

Would you say your well positioned within the model agency / fashion industry?

I have some friends in the fashion industry and in some of the best models agencies, but that's all. **Can you describe the feeling you had when you received the prestigious Gold Lux 2008 award (first place) in the National Professional Photography Awards in Spain?**

Absolutely thrilled.

From your work, it appears you like to shoot excitement? Do you only shoot what you love?

I try to work with people/clients I admire but it is sometimes a challenge for me to accept a job that I don't love to test myself and see how I solve it and do it mine.

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General

Are you interested in producing 'fashion film' projects?

Nowadays I am more interested in producing personal video projects, but maybe I will produce a fashion film next year.

As a preference do you prefer your work to appear in a digital or printed format?

I like both. They are different mediums but maybe I prefer printed format.

With print being challenged by the economy and the rise of digital devices, do you see a place for this medium anymore?

Of course. Magazines and printed books will always have its place. Or at least I wish. Perhaps every time there will be more limited editions for collectors. I like digital editions too because they are more global and accessible.

What type of camera do you prefer to shoot with for high-end results?

Creativity is more important than technique.

You do not shoot a lot of, if any, 'implied nudes' or 'soft porn'? Why?

I shoot nudes. I've shot many nudes are unknown but because the journals are censoring this kind of work. I love the naked force and the connotations they bring to a photograph. Lately I'm doing more male nudes because it is a field to investigate because there are few references in the art world when compared to the female nude. I also very interested in the redefinition of man to the changes society is undergoing.

Was there ever a point in your career where you felt like "I'm not cut out for this"?

A lot of. It is a very rewarding and exciting profession, but very hard. Sometimes I've thought about leaving and devote myself to something quieter. But I can not.

What was the turning point in your career?

There are many, but I always think it is coming.

How does it feel being an artist in our generation when many say that art is dead?

Art never dies because it is intrinsic to human.

What message would you like to send to other photographers who may look up to you and your work for inspiration?

I advise them to be inspired by the work of other photographers but did not copy from others. If they do not bring anything new to their work it is meaningless and will not differ from the others. ■