

# Artists Statement

## Rocks and Petals

*"Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better." - Albert Einstein*

Rocks and Petals brings you two very different views of nature, from one extreme to the other, experiencing the vastness of the majestic Rocky Mountains, to the macro views of peonies or tulips.

### **The photographs**

Ramin Izadpanah's mountain scenes create a sense of immensity, of an unlimited space... of freedom. Ramin's strong love of the Rocky Mountains is evident in his sensitive approach to the composition, lighting and mood to each image.

'Morning at Herbert Lake' should not be taken lightly. Ramin slept in a rented van beside the lake so that he could set up before the break of dawn. Chilled to the bone and battling mosquitos and blackflies, along with his grumbling stomach, Ramin blindly pushed through the brush amidst the darkness. The night slowly and softly lifted as morning approached while Ramin scampered to find the right advantage point. Once found, he quickly set up and waited for the perfect light. Then it happened.... capturing the lake so calm with the quite light of morning was what Ramin had envisioned. Seeing his dream through enlightened him and a great feeling of inner happiness flooded over him.

Each of Ramin's Rocky Mountain photos has a similar story... a dream, a journey, followed by a happy ending. After every trip to the mountains, Ramin would say, "Why would we travel anywhere else when we have the Rocky Mountains right here in Canada?"

### **The paintings**

Patty-Lou Laalo's larger than life, brightly painted flowers, invoke an energetic, celebratory feeling. Her innate love of nature is why she paints and its evident in her beautifully painted petals, stamens and stems of each flower.

Opposite of the mountainous scenes taken by Ramin, these flowers are macro views and allow the viewer to see 'only that flower' which is what Patty-Lou intended. When viewing one of these paintings, the viewer should be lured in by the flower and feel a sense of celebration and happiness.

Patty-Lou noted that painting for her is much like meditating, but she especially found this true while painting her flowers.

### **Conclusion**

Both set of works express a desire to celebrate the beauty which surrounds us, to see nature for what it is and enjoy it.