

PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, Zambian life and whatever's in the news. And especially for those who just like looking at pictures. Send your feedback - PhotoMail will be developed in line with what its subscribers want to see. Photomail is available for free subscription by emailing me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com.

The Story Behind the Pictures:

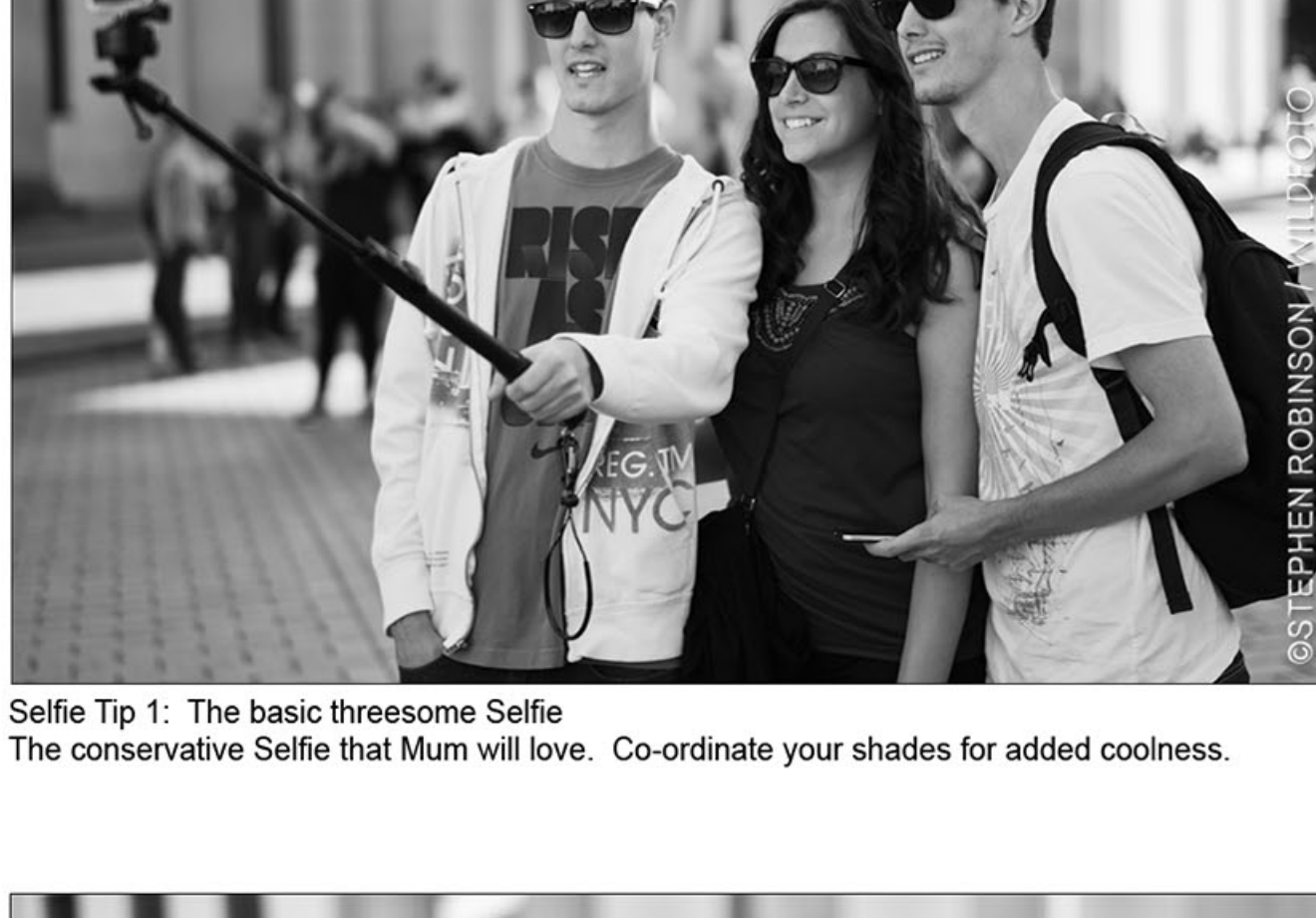
ME & MY CAMERA Pt.2 - *The Art of the Selfie*

In this PhotoMail, we look at the vain art of the instant self portrait.

The Brandenburg Gate in Berlin is very much the symbol of both German reunification and of Europe itself. So it's a hot spot for tourism. When I came out of the U-Bahn station onto Pariserplatz, I was shocked at the number of tourists, many of them jockeying for position in front of this grand and historically fascinating monument. But then I realised they weren't nudging each other to get the best view of the monument, rather to get the best view of themselves. For this was a Selfie Fest.

I decided to stay and look at this new but strange human behavior. It soon became clear that most of the Selfie Artists were there not to see the Brandenburg Gate, or learn something of its long and turbulent history. They were there only in the cause of Vanity - to get that Selfie portrait to send to their pals on Fussbook, to say: "I was there, will you Like me?". They did a few Selfies, then they left.

Some of the Selfie Artists were shy and reluctant beginners; some were determined and ruthless enough to "photo-bomb" the Selfies set up by others, in order to get a better spot for their own Selfie; and there were others who were obviously practised masters in this, *The Art of the Selfie*. I watched, and picked up some tips:



Selfie Tip 1: The basic threesome Selfie
The conservative Selfie that Mum will love. Co-ordinate your shades for added coolness.



Selfie Tip 2: The Lovers' Selfie
If you're 'in a relationship', make absolutely sure you show it. Mmmwaa.... But don't try this in Zimbabwe.



Selfie Tip 3: The Expert Loner
Alone but undaunted, the Expert Loner has a large repertoire of dynamic expressions and poses.



Selfie Tip 4: The Reluctant Loner



Selfie Tip 5: The Selfie Masters
Advanced exponents of *The Art of the Selfie* tour the World's most iconic landmarks, always impeccably dressed, designer-accessorised, and ready to strike one of their well-rehearsed poses. It's said that some of them have more Fussbook 'friends' than Mark Zuckerberg has dollars.



Selfie Tip 6: Ask for help
If you're 'not in a relationship' ask another Selfie Artiste to hold your selfie stick and look like you are. This will double the number of Fussbook 'Likes' you will get.



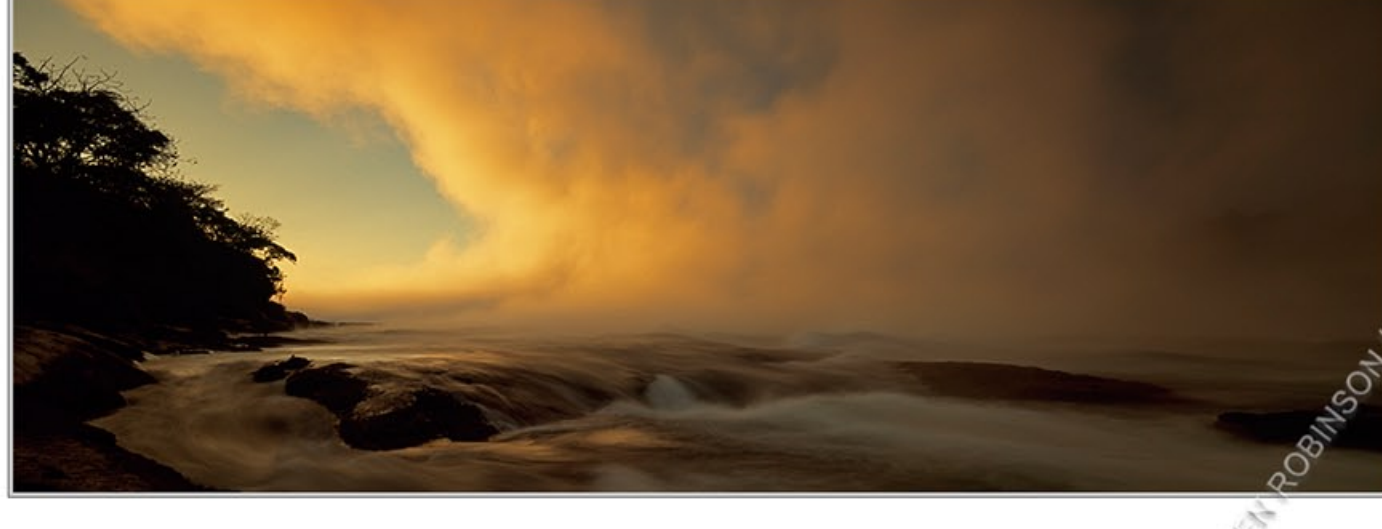
Selfie Tip 7: The Selfie Virgins
Although now very rare, look out for the Selfie Virgins. They are the ones interested only in looking at the landmark, the architecture, or learning about its history in a tourist guide book. Don't let them distract you from your Selfie objective. If they are obstructing your Selfie, get your selfie stick out and stand between them and the landmark. They will soon move out of your way.

THIS WEEK'S PRINT OFFER

Framed Fine Art Panoramic Print: *Dawn Mist on Luapula River*

from the **SPIRIT OF THE LAND** PANORAMIC AFRICA project

Signed Limited Edition, Fine Art pigment ink print on archival heavyweight art media matted & framed, framed size 115 x 63cm.



Title: Dawn Mist
Luapula River, Congo-Zambia Border
(ref. LZml_35)

Edition: Signed Limited Edition of 100 only

Print: Fine Art pigment ink printed on archival heavyweight art media, matted & framed

Framed size: 115cm x 63cm (45" x 25")

Price: Gallery price - US\$ 350
OFFER price - US\$ 250

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PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Stephen Robinson is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in the corporate, industrial, mining, donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and promotional media. Medium format panoramic photography and aerial work are specialities.

This commercial work supports his nature photography speciality, including landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of Zambia.

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