



Robert Valentine

Photo by Russell Augustine

a MAN of many MOMENTS

Like all students and faculty, Information Center specialist, Robert Valentine has hobbies and interest outside of work.

His love of photography has put him in places and situations few could say they have experienced.

In November of 1980 Valentine visited Pompeii near Naples, Italy.

Aware of its historical significance he set out to photograph as much of the ancient city as possible.

"I bought every kind of film, filter and equipment that I could," said Valentine.

After shooting roll after roll he journeyed off to Rome.

Only hours after leaving Pompeii a slight tremor shook the ground as Valentine ate dinner at a local cafe.

Valentine later discovered that the tremor was caused by an earthquake that devastated Pompeii more than any other in recent history; many of the things Valentine had photographed hours earlier had been damaged by the disaster.

It was during his time in the Army that he first developed an interest in photography.

"I was stationed in Munich and about two or three of the guys I hung out with were always taking photo's," said Valentine.

It was an interest that took him all across Europe and other parts of the world during the 1970s and 80s.

During a trip to the town of Cadaqués, Spain in 1970, Valentine set out to catch a glimpse of one of the areas most famous residents, Salvador Dali.

Dali, a surrealist artist who is most known for his painting of clocks melting called "The Persistence of Memory", kept a house off of Port Lligat, near the village.

"After talking to the towns people they said that he comes out every day around 2 p.m. and goes for a ride on

his boat," said Valentine, "So I decided to hang out."

Eventually Dali went out on his boat.

After returning, Dali approached Valentine who was standing on the beach about 100 feet away.

"He actually came up to me and said we are having a party tonight, come over and visit," said Valentine.

"When I walked in French Television was there setting up to film a commercial," said Valentine, "There was a guy standing on the stairs taking light readings at every step."

The plan, presumably, was for Dali to walk out of his door upstairs and go down the stair case as the television crew filmed it.

Dali, who was known for his eccentric personality, instead opted to open the door and jump from the top of the stair case, over the balcony to the floor below.

"The director started screaming at him, they were speaking French, but I can only imagine he was asking him why he didn't walk down the stairs after he had set up the shot," said Valentine.

Valentine has never attempted to market or sell his photography.

"It's just something I enjoy doing, I've shot weddings for friends and things like that but I never do it for money," said Valentine.

Valentine, who was hired at the college in 1986 as a Technical Coordinator in the Business Professional Institute, also enjoys composing music, something that got him interested in computers in the first place.

"I've always had an interest in computers but I especially was interested in recording my own music," said Valentine, "Music is what I have been focusing on lately, but I plan to get back in to photography, it's just a matter of having the time to pursue it."



"THIS IS ACTUALLY THE INSIDE of an ancient bath house in Pompeii. I don't know if this was destroyed after the earthquake. Although I haven't been back I have seen photographs taken there since the earthquake and things I shot are no longer there."



"THIS IS THE FRONT OF DALIS' HOUSE."

"I WAS IN ECUADOR IN THE late 70s for a few days. I saw these kids every day, they just asked for a little change in exchange for taking their picture."



"THIS WAS A LAB IN RIO THAT WE WENT through as part of a tour in the late 70s. They were actually using venom from the snakes to make products such as medicine."

"THIS IS ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL in the Vatican. Every time I was on those stairs I shot a picture, which was at least four or five times. I love Rome, it is so full of history and so photogenic."



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