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# Meet Judy Zoch-Nitzinger

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VoyageDallas



Today we'd like to introduce you to Judy Zoch-Nitzinger.

**Every artist has a unique story. Can you briefly walk us through yours?**

I'm a bit awkward as I have interviewed so many musicians making this a strange twist with my own interview. My first and greatest inspiration is my father. Basically, I grew up in front of the camera and learned from watching his creative eye. I learned a lot modeling for his photography class. Besides being artistic, Dad was an auto mechanic, a machinist by trade, and in my eyes a genius as he could build or fix anything. What better influence could any artist have?

When I was twelve years old, Dad gifted me a Polaroid instant camera. I was hooked! I took photos of everything in front of me. The first serious 35mm camera I used as a teenager was a Minolta and it was awesome to learn with. It was stolen and eventually I purchased a Konica, the exact same model my father was using at the time. For decades, it was my primary camera body as I shot and wrote for local and international music magazines and I was also fortunate to have photos published in music related books, again locally and internationally. I eventually became a Nikon fan. My first Nikon was a N90s, then I was probably the last person on earth to move to a DSL, a Nikon D50. Digital took over and I had a

new learning curve. I now use a Nikon D7200. Equipment could price a photographer out of a home, but I feel if you have the eye and a creative spirit, you can do well with mid-priced equipment.

I stepped away from freelancing when I married and focused on promoting my rock star husband. I knew who he was since I was 16 years old, but he never noticed me although I shot and wrote about him for years. As a rock-n-roll photographer, you need to be inconspicuous, not using a flash and dressing down so not to take attention away from the show. The night he did notice me, he asked if I would shoot for his new album cover. I had no idea he had any other intentions than being interested in my art. He later told me the moment he saw me that night, it was like no one else was in the room. I swear! I didn't use my flash!

### **Please tell us about your art.**

Most of my photos of musical artists show a lot of emotion. I think it's important to deliver the feeling of the moment I have captured. More recently, my favorite backdrop is the great outdoors. Mostly when I shoot, it's for my own need for artistic release. I want to create pleasure to the eyes. Nature is a big change from the rock stage, but in my later years, I find a lot of peace in shooting as the moon shines through the tree branches at night, the hummingbird zipping up the wisteria and animals being playful and humorous. Of course, my most valued photos are of family. Life brings changes and I love my life.

### **What do you think about conditions for artists today? Has life become easier or harder for artists in recent years? What can cities like ours do to encourage and help art and artists thrive?**

With social media, things have changed in many ways. For instance, it makes it easier to promote your work however, it is much easier for infringement. With the latest cell phones, or devices, anyone can be a good photographer and provides the ability to catch the instant moments, which brings an urgency to be more creative to stay in the game. Economy always dictates how we do our art. For those of us who must work a "day job", time becomes precious for our real passion.

Cities like Dallas and my home town, Fort Worth, have great culture. I'm thankful for the museums, festivals, and the music scene. I'm really happy to see public art however, I want more of it produced by local artists. Support for art and music education in the schools is vital to any community. I'd like to see more support of the arts in less fortunate communities. A new child only library is soon scheduled to begin development in a Fort Worth neighborhood that will not only be a place for the children to study in a safe environment after school but will additionally offer creative classes. This is an enlightening endeavor for that area!

### **How or where can people see your work? How can people support your work?**

Currently, I'm not freelancing. Formerly, I regularly wrote and shot for Southwest Blues Magazine (North Texas) and Strange Pleasures Magazine (UK). Buddy Magazine (Fort Worth) featured my cover story and photos about my husband, John Nitzinger. Fort Worth Weekly published several of my photos and one

cover photo for the article “Boogie Chillin” about the local black blues scene, written by my friend Ken Shimamoto. Some of my photos are printed in the book, “Rock Shrines”, by the author Thomas H. Green, in the UK. A few of my photos were published in “You Can’t Stop a Comet” a book written by the late Cutter Brandenburg, about the local DFW scene, you may see several of my photos on our website: [www.nitzinger.com](http://www.nitzinger.com). In more recent years, I’ve shot engagement, wedding, prom and graduation photos. My goal is to publish a book of my works. Many musicians I have photographed are no longer with us and hopefully I can help bring back memories for the fans. Just a few of the musicians still living you may know, and favorites to shoot in performance, were Carlos Santana, Al Green, Edger Winter, Keb Mo and T-Bone Burnett. People may contact me through the website.

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*Photo by Judy Zoch Nitzinger*

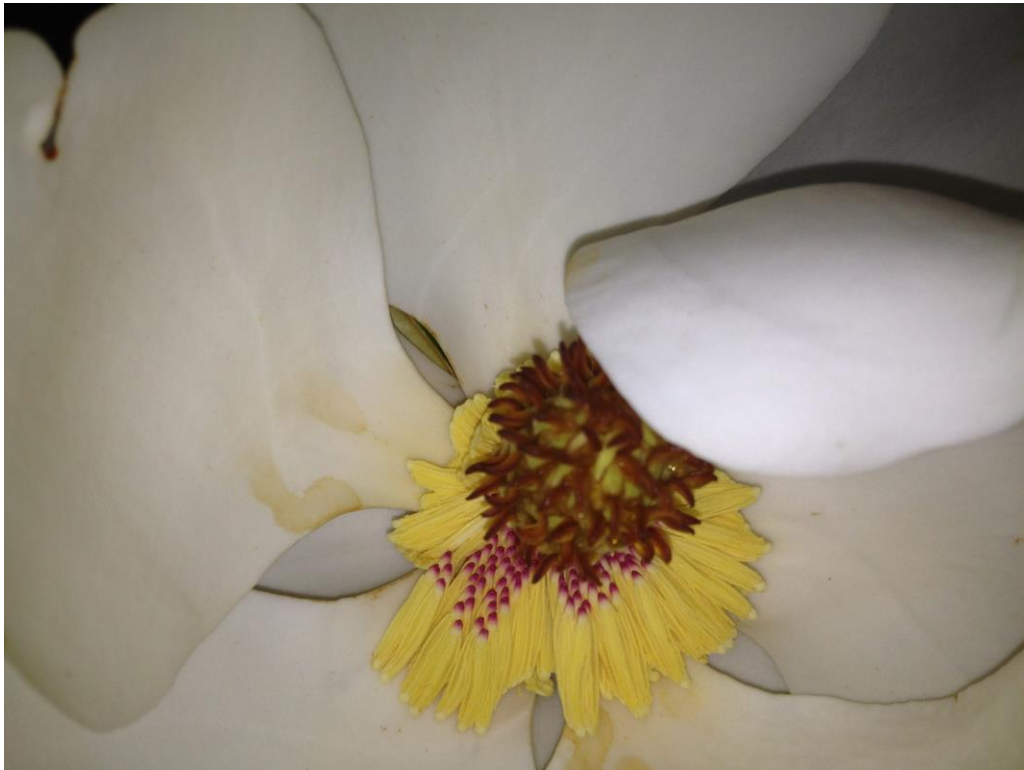




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