

I recently received this unsolicited and glowing email from a client who purchased six of my books and had them shipped to Norway.

“Dear Mark,

I lack words in English to describe my impression. As a reader of National Geographic Magazine and a frequent viewer of similar TV programs, I am a spoiled consumer of fantastic pictures. That makes my respect for your work even higher when I think of the immense competition you are facing.

- You master the pictures taken after days and nights of planning and waiting as well as those you have to take in a second of decision .
- Compared with a paid photographer from NG, who can spend weeks on a spot, I think you quite often are doing it when on work. (I heard a good story about the photographer who was sent by NG to the melting glacier on Iceland a few years ago. He positioned himself to get the right shots when the glacier had to give way for the enormous amount of melted water. Having waited for 30 days however, he left the day before it happened).
- You are an artist with your camera using its features in a brilliant way.
- Being a pilot you could have focused on stunning photographs from the air only, but you see the small blossom, the ant, the frog, etc. as well.
- You could have focused on objects lying still, but you take shots of animals, birds, fish and lightening, fire and volcanos in action. The close up picture of the grizzly and the salmon on page 65 is the best I have seen. You can even see the “face” of the salmon as it hopes to escape. And it did, thanks to you.
- You bring humor into your pictures as shown on page 64 and, at least in my opinion, on page 29 when I see all these curious faces of the sea otters. The black bear on 83 also looks like a teddy.
- You focus on colors like page 11, 36, 47, and many others.
- You see how the forces of nature are working and explain how peculiar leftovers from glaciers are made, like on page 52 and 53
- You see the majesty and beauty of mountains, glaciers, northern light or a grizzly bear,
- You see the strange and peculiar patterns and fractal geometry that may be exposed in glaciers, rivers, melting ice, water surface, the wall of a mountain or just in a country side. Here your view from above adds perspectives that are hidden for others.
- You bring nature and technology into harmony with all the beautiful pictures of nature combined with a plane. This tells me that we can live in a modern way without destroying the nature if we treat it with respect.
- You wait for the sunlight to give peculiar impressions starting on page 3, continuing with the stunning shots on pages 7, 22, 42, 45, 49 (really amazing), 56 – 58, 67, 79, 81, 101, and many others.
- You often tell how the pictures were made, and that adds knowledge to the feeling of art.
- Last, but definitely not least, you add sayings from a lot of different persons. Have you really read all this in original from Mark Chagall, Albert Einstein, Goethe and all the others I never have heard about?

This is just some of the many aspects I find in your book. To say that I am impressed and that this book is beautiful and fantastic is far too weak and superficial. However, my English is not better, so I have tried to explain something of what I feel and can see in your pictures and I think this also is also what you want to share with the viewers. But I am sure you want to tell much more. Compared with books made for “tourists only”, which we have many of here in Norway, they may show a lot of nice pictures from our great nature, but they don’t bring emotions, artistic feelings and large variety of aspects of nature into focus as your book does.”

Wow! Thank you Kåre and thank you too for the invite to Norway.

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