



# Through the Lens

MADE MASTIANTA NADERA speaks with **DR CHRISTOPHER KHNG**, Singapore's leading Consultant Ophthalmologist and Medical Director of **EYEWISE VISION CLINIC**, and discovers his love for photography and his ability to see beauty not only in the human eye, but also through the eye of his camera lens



The eye can speak and tell one so much about what is beautiful in the world around us. The eye is the window to one's soul and to Dr Christopher Khng the eye is a wonder to behold. As a Consultant Eye Specialist (Ophthalmologist), Dr Khng examines the eye with great depth and detail. A typical day at the clinic starts with seeing patients and later performing delicate eye surgeries with state-of-the-art lens implants to help patients see well again. Dr Khng is trained in complex cataract surgical techniques, advanced lens technology and iris repair. Every year he travels extensively in his capacity as a medical professional, both to teach and also on medical volunteer missions. Dr Khng sits on the Cataract subcommittee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), and is a well sought after speaker at international conferences. His schedule takes him to many interesting places where he does medical teaching and also gets to fulfill his photographic interests.

He has travelled to some far-flung places such as Aleppo in Syria, Hue City in Vietnam, Chennai and Pondicherry in Southern India, Siem Reap in Cambodia and Prague in the Czech Republic. On all of these travels, this avid photographer has never failed to bring along his faithful camera. He speaks enthusiastically when talking about his photographic interests. "One has to have a creative vision as well as an eye for detail in order to discover profound images in everyday scenes," says Dr Christopher Khng.

Each encounter in one's everyday existence is a potential photographic opportunity. He believes that there is a photograph around every corner, which can tell a poignant story of a time and place, captured for eternity. If a painting says a thousand words, then one special photograph has the eloquence to speak volumes on the emotions and feelings about a place to everyone who views it. He has in the past used Japanese Nikon and Canon cameras, but now his passion is the German Leica M photographic system. He owns 3 Leica cameras, and is committed to both digital and 35 mm film media, feeling that

*The eye speaks with an eloquence and truthfulness surpassing speech. It is the window out of which the winged thoughts often fly unwittingly. It is the tiny magic mirror on whose crystal surface the moods of feeling fitfully play, like the sunlight and shadow on a still stream.*

HENRY THEODORE TUCKERMAN



both formats have a part to play in the creative vision. He has read numerous photographic books and one day hopes to launch a collection of his favourite fine-art photos in the near future. "There is no denying that doctoring is hard work, and at times also emotionally draining and stressful. So in order to de-stress I turn to photography," says Dr Khng.

As an avid photographer, he finds beauty and solace in subjects that capture his eye and his focus through the camera lens. He started his love for photography in the 1990s. Perhaps it was his 20 years of interest in photography that spurred the fascination with images, light and angles that led him to specialize in the human eye and difficult cataract cases. He enjoys family time with his wife and 4 children and has lots of photographs to remember special occasions by, such as birthdays, weddings, vacations and other significant events.

Dr Christopher Khng helps in his professional career to give clarity and life to the vision of others, but as a photographer he captures and immortalizes fleeting special moments to be cherished for a long time by succeeding generations. ■

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