

Western Pennsylvania Hospital News

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Artists Among Us—Dr. Robert Kormos' Photography for the Heart, Mind, and Eye

by Christopher Cussat

Dr. Robert Kormos might tell you that he's done a lot of crazy things in his life—even racecar driving. But throughout his life and career, he has always kept his eyes (and lens) focused on his professional and artistic passions.

As a heart transplant specialist, professor of surgery, and the director of the artificial heart program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), it is no surprise that Kormos' time is a limited commodity. But despite this, he always has been able to find a balance of dedication to his work, his family, and his artistic interest—photography.



Dr. Robert Kormos

Kormos is interested in both black and white as well as color photographs—and he also has a website where he displays his artistic work. “I really do enjoy photography a lot! I take photographs of dancers and I also do quite a bit of architecture, nature, and other such subject matters,” he adds.

He traces his interest and enjoyment of working in this medium to his early academic studies that were prior to medical school. Kormos explains, “My background in college before I got into medicine was perceptual psychology and sensory psychology—so a lot of what I did was related to trying to understand the perception of the senses. Much of the classic psychology of learning has to do with visual cues, and

even as a kid, I think I've always enjoyed photography because it's a way of interpreting the world a little differently than what we see.”

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Dollar Bank Private Banking Offers Expertise to Medical Clients

By David Kenneth Jr

Dollar Bank's Private Banking division has years of experience fulfilling the banking needs of individual physicians and medical practices. Client relationships at Dollar Bank are unique in today's banking world because the Private Banking Officer helps the physician and practice properly structure debt, underwrites and closes the loans and actively manages the relationship.



Robert Collins

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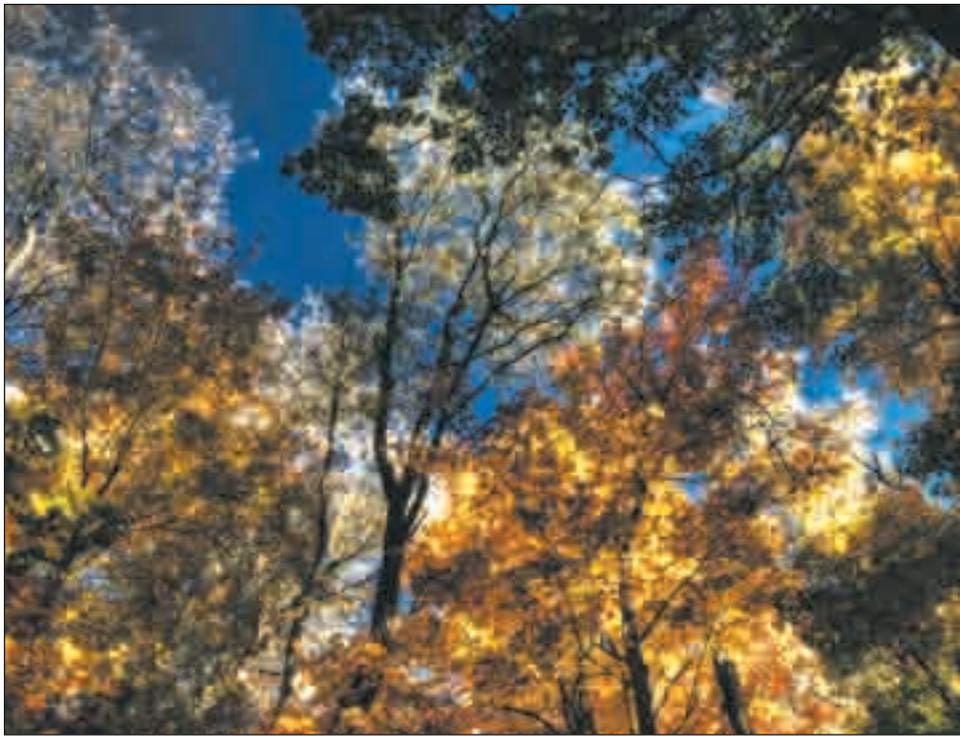
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ARTIST From **Page 1**

Another reason Kormos chose photography may be because not everyone is born a painter! He jokes, “For me, it was about the only thing that I could do artistically. I can’t paint or draw worth a damn! So this came easy for me.” The digital revolution also helped to facilitate Kormos’ fluency with the medium. He explains, “When they became available, I think I probably had one of the first digital cameras ever made—and as a result I learned more about photography in that unconstrained way because I didn’t have to worry about developing film and its related costs.” In addition, Kormos enjoys doing his own photography processing and editing on the computer.



Dr. Robert Kormos



Dr. Robert Kormos

Photography has also become a relaxing break from Kormos’ very demanding professional specialty. “In the healthcare area that I work in, there’s a lot of emotional energy that’s spent looking after patients. In other words, it’s a very personal thing—you don’t just do surgery on somebody and walk away. So photography gives me a way of disconnecting from that and relaxing—that’s kind of another reason why I do it.”

Although his medical work is so time demanding, Kormos has been able to successfully combine his professional opportunities with his artistic interests. “I do a great deal of traveling for academic medicine-related meetings and lectures all over the country and the world—and this also gives me many artistic opportunities. So whenever I go somewhere, I always make sure that I have time built into my schedule which will allow me to get free and do some of my photography.”

Even though Kormos cannot imagine being a full-time photographer professionally, he believes he will eventually spend more and more time pursuing his art form. “I’ve often joked with my wife that when it does come to retirement, that’s probably what we’ll do—you know, go out to the Outer Banks, take photographs, and sell postcards!”

To see some more of Kormos’ photographic works and to learn more about his artistic philosophy and expression, you can visit his website at www.heartmind-eye.com.



Dr. Robert Kormos

Faith is daring the soul to go beyond what the eyes can see.
 ~ Author unknown

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 but rather what lives within us.*

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