

## **Artist Statement**

Erik Hilburn

I started shooting photographs of my best friends riding BMX bikes in my friend's backyard. This backyard was an integral part of my childhood. His father had a pool digging business so he had an extra backyard where he kept his dump truck and tractor. His dad was extremely supportive of BMX and let us ride our bikes back there and build whatever we wanted. My friends and I basically had a half-acre lot to do what we pleased. A lot of fun was had and I wanted to document it. I borrowed my mom's Olympus point and shoot camera and started shooting. I haven't stopped since.

My love for riding bikes will never die and I will continue to document the things bike riding brings me. I want to show the average person what it is like to have such a special hobby. My photographs will appeal to various people and every person who rides BMX. I want my audience to see the action of the sport but also get a behind the scenes look as well. I have met people all over the world, stayed at stranger's houses, had strangers stay at my house and traveled around the world all because of this hobby of mine. People will see what it is like to be in my shoes with every photograph I take.