

My 'Selfie'

It is almost impossible to describe the colossal magnificence of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Before I saw it with my own eyes I couldn't comprehend the scale of it. I was in awe the moment I laid my eyes on it.



I was on a three month trip around America with my best friend during a period of time in my life that I was finding extremely challenging. It was a journey of self discovery and reflection, although at the time I may not have recognised it as that. I just wanted to take myself away from the world I was living in, and start again with a clean slate and renewed ambition.

I found myself at the Grand Canyon speechless I could have stood there for hours just looking and thinking. My friend however did not have the same opinion. He was and still is, the sort of person that

arrives there walks around for ten minutes taking pictures, then proceeds to spend the next half an hour trying to find somewhere with free Wifi, so he can upload his pictures and gain recognition from his five-hundred and something 'friends' on Facebook.

Because of this I would regularly find myself alone, which on this occasion, I was actually quite happy with. I felt I had reached a massively significant point on my journey I had decided the day before that when I returned home I would quit my job and I would set about becoming an artist. It was a massively liberating feeling to finally know and truly believe in where my life was going. I was no longer just another young bachelor in a job he didn't like with no ambition or drive wallowing in self pity and drinking himself into an early grave. I had a Plan.

I felt like I was being reborn, I felt like I wanted to show myself to the world and shout, 'I'm Back!'. I am not a naturist and I don't make a habit of stripping in public places but I just don't know what came over me.

I managed to find a place away from the crowds, in an area cordoned off by tape, I positioned my camera with a gorilla tripod on one of the poles that the 'Do Not Enter' tape was attached to. I set the timer and ran into position. Fortunately I got it in that single take, because not a minute after it was done a man on a buggy came on a quad bike and said I shouldn't be past the fence because they hadn't swept that area for rattlesnakes, anyway I'm glad I didn't know at the time.

Looking at the image now it was in some ways a strange picture to have taken and I ask myself sometimes did I really need to document that moment, is it just my own vanity. I have decided that in what was one of the most significant moments of my life why shouldn't I document it. The image was not taken for sexual purposes or desire like a lot of naked selfies are today. It was taken as a memory of where I was, metaphorically and literally, and where I was going.