

# Tucsonista: Mikael Ramirez- Fashion Photographer Extraordinaire

Written by Zandrea Penn

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Tucson's fashion scene is gradually expanding and with it comes new and innovative photographers, namely Mikael Ramirez. I was first introduced to Mikael about a year ago when I was invited to model for him. Mikael's simple and sleek fashion concepts along with his meticulous photo retouching quickly grasped my interest.



Upon my arrival to the shoot I was greeted by Stefani Annalise, who is a hair stylist and makeup artist working for Toni and Guy in Tucson, AZ. Stefani's superior hair styling skills are far above most I have seen. She uses a light touch when applying make up and the results are breathtaking. Along with Stefani, Mikael Ramirez also collaborates with Xenia Vayne. Xenia, also known as StyleAZ is responsible for the extraordinary fashion in Mikael's Photography. Xenia understands fashion, she knows the limits and how far to push them. This extraordinary collaboration of artists create not just fashion, but an explosion of style and drama. When I first met Xenia she put me in the most spectacular tan Badgley Mischka pumps, thus proving extraordinary fashion taste. Overall the photo shoot was laid back and fun. Mikael along with the rest of his team never once failed to impress. I assume I impressed as well because I was invited back about a month later for another shoot!



## How did you become interested in fashion photography?

I was always intrigued by the photos in fashion magazines while flipping through them. Before I knew much about photography, those were the kind of photos that always wowed me. Women have always been my favorite subject in my artistic ventures. I guess it only made sense.

Everyone has a camera these days. I had one and I kept sort of playing with it but never really enjoyed what I was doing or put much effort into it till I started trying the fashion stuff with friends modeling for me. A few shoots later I was hooked. I can appreciate all kinds of photography now but the other genres still just don't make me feel the way fashion does.

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## What was your favorite shoot thus far?

To be honest all of my recent shoots have been my favorite and not to sound cliché but I think the last shoot I've done for my book is always going to be my favorite but I'll give you one of my recent favorites. I did a shoot with Jonna Francis from S.I.M. Agency and Amber Mortenson from Painfully Hip styling. That shoot just had so many amazing shots it was a bit hard for me to edit it down to a few good ones.



## Where do you get your inspiration?

Everywhere, really. How can you as an artist not be inspired by everything you see around you? One of my favorite things is walking a new city and mentally recording every thing beautiful to me. I rarely photograph them because I like to keep them that way.

## What is your dream photography job?

As long as I'm doing fashion I'll be doing what I want to.

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## Who is your favorite photographer?

I have a few favorite photographers but if I had to name one person right off the top of my head, I'd say Norman Jean Roy. I like his story and his photos are like beautiful paintings. Another photographer I should mention since I love everything he does, Bruno Dayan.

## What can we expect to see from you in the future?

I'm just getting started, so even I don't even know what's in my future. The relatively short journey I've taken to get to where I am right now has been an adventure and I've met some amazing people. I'll always be working towards a goal that always changes before I reach it but at the moment I feel like my photos are finally speaking with the voice I want them too. Hopefully soon you'll see some published amazing published editorials!



## Credits

Photo 1:

Model: Kateis Flanigan- Ford/RBA, Stylist: Xenia Vayne, Makeup/Hair: Stefani Annaliese, Photography: Mikael Ramirez

Photo 2:

Model: Jonna Francis- S.I.M. Agency, Stylist: Amber Mortenson- Painfully Hip, Hair: Stefani Annaliese, Makeup: Paloma Alcantar, Photography: Mikael Ramirez

Photo 3:

Model: Kateis Flanigan- Ford/RBA, Stylist: Xenia Vayne, Makeup/Hair: Stefani Annaliese, Photography: Mikael Ramirez

Photo 4:

Model: Gwen Elizabeth- S.I.M., Stylist: Xenia Vayne, Makeup/Hair: Stefani Annaliese, Photography: Mikael Ramirez

Photo 5:

Model: Zandrea Penn- S.I.M., Stylist: Xenia Vayne, Makeup/Hair: Stefani Annaliese, Photography: Mikael Ramirez