

# VERVE

GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

*Verve Gallery of Photography Presents*

## *Saturated With Color*

**Jeffrey Becom \* Maggie Taylor \* Nevada Wier**

**Opening Reception: Friday, July 9, 2010, 5-7pm**

Exhibit is on view through Saturday, August 28, 2010

**Gallery Talk with Jeffrey Becom and Nevada Wier**

Saturday, July 10, 2-4pm

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Verve Gallery of Photography is pleased to present *Saturated With Color*, a three-person exhibition with Verve gallery artists Jeffrey Becom, Maggie Taylor and Nevada Wier. **The public reception is held on Friday, July 9 from 5-7pm. The exhibition is on view through Saturday, August 28, 2010. There will be a conversation with Jeffrey Becom and Nevada Wier about their work at Verve Gallery on Saturday, July 10 from 2-4pm.**

### **JEFFREY BECOM**

California based artist Jeffrey Becom will be exhibiting work from his most recent series of film-based images from Northern India and Kashmir. These new photographs reflect his signature subject and style: the sensuous use of color to transform architectural imagery into lush, painterly, colorist compositions. Coming to fine art photography as a painter and architect, Becom has spent the last thirty years revealing the stories and symbolism behind the brightly painted walls of traditional villages from the Mediterranean and Mexico to the Highlands of Guatemala and Peru.

"It was only a matter of time before I turned my camera to the subcontinent of Asia," says Becom. "After all, India is synonymous with brilliant colors, myriad faiths and some of the earliest societies on earth. Color and faith profoundly envelop Indian life on all levels. I worked mainly in small towns and villages located well off the tourist routes where color and religious ritual are most deeply entwined and intact. I call this first series of images "Painted Shadows," because while the painted colors and belief systems of India are potent and pervasive, my understanding of Eastern cultural traditions is necessarily obscured by my Western mindset. These images reveal glimpses—enduring mirages—in the mountains, dust and sand."

Becom has come to find his inspiration in ever-more remote places populated by indigenous, ritual-bound people whose architectural color springs organically from their history, geography and faith. He considers his photographs to be documentary: the colors, subjects and details are captured as found. He has long relied on traditional equipment and materials and printed using traditional wet darkroom techniques and the Ilfochrome process. Only with this new India series has he entered the digital realm and begun producing film-based images as pigment ink prints on German etching paper.

Simultaneously pursuing an interest in antique darkroom processes, Becom will also be exhibiting six contemporary platinum/palladium prints of images from India. This exclusive collection is printed on Japanese handmade, hand-coated Gampi paper in collaboration with Hidden Light of Flagstaff, Arizona, as commissioned by Verve Gallery of Photography.

California-based Becom is also a writer, designer and visual anthropologist. With his partner, Sally Aberg, he has authored two award-winning books, *Mediterranean Color* and *Maya Color: The Painted Villages of Mesoamerica* (both from Abbeville Press, New York, 1990 and 1997). He is the subject of an hour-long PBS / BBC documentary entitled *For the Colors, A Journey Through Italy* (soon available for purchase on DVD). Becom's work is held in public and private collections worldwide and represented by ten fine art photography galleries across the country. His work was featured in the inaugural issue of *COLOR Magazine* in April 2009.

## **MAGGIE TAYLOR**

For this exhibition, Florida based photographer Maggie Taylor will be debuting, *Small Possible Worlds*, twenty new color prints which are an extension of her previous work, in which she explores the use of a computer and a flatbed scanner in place of a camera. By placing objects directly on the scanner she is able to create a unique type of digital image which keep its photographic qualities.

After completing her own illustrations to a new publication of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland in 2008 (with debut exhibition at Verve Gallery), Maggie is now freely working with her own imagination again, continuing the use of animals, people and landscapes in the surreal, bizarre settings she creates. She also continues the use of old photographs such as daguerreotypes and tintypes as well as using animal figurines, illustrations and negatives in which she then composites on the computer, resulting in a digital print. The animals continue to mingle with the people in her new work either as pets, or being discreetly placed within an image and becoming a subtle integration or showing up as a threatening force. The use of landscapes have been inspired by Maggie's images from her travels and include Venice and Lacock Abbey in England. She has made an homage to the history of photography including appropriated images from Henry Fox Talbot in her image, "The Collector."

Maggie Taylor received her BA degree in philosophy from Yale University in 1983 and her MFA degree in photography from the University of Florida in 1987. After more than ten years as a still life photographer, she began to use the computer to create her images in 1996. Her work is featured in Adobe Photoshop Master Class: Maggie Taylor's Landscape of Dreams, published by Adobe Press in 2004; Solutions Beginning with A, Modernbook Editions, Palo Alto, 2007; and Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Modernbook Editions, Palo Alto, 2008. Taylor's images have been exhibited in one-person exhibitions throughout the U.S and abroad and are in numerous public and private collections including The Art Museum, Princeton University; The Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University; Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; and The Museum of Photography, Seoul, Korea. In 1996 and 2001, she received State of Florida Individual Artist's Fellowships. In 2004, she won the Santa Fe Center for Photography's Project Competition. 2005 she received the Ultimate Eye Foundation Grant. She lives in Gaineville, Florida.

## **NEVADA WIER**

Santa Fe based photographer, Nevada Wier will be debuting her new, ongoing project entitled, *Outer India*, where she is focusing on the tribal cultures that live in the peripheral edges of India. Culturally, these tribes are diverse and unique; physically they mostly inhabit the border regions. Most of these locations require special permits, rough, long days of driving, dealing with difficult weather, and uncertain political situations.

In Nevada's first exhibition at Verve, *A Nomadic Vision*, she exhibited a retrospective of work from her extensive travels throughout the Eastern world. This series, *Outer India*, began years ago when she traveled extensively in the northwestern region of Ladakh and became enamored with the Ladakhi culture. She then traveled to the color-fantastic states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and South India. Those travels led her to explore the rugged far northeastern states,

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euphemistically called the "Seven Sisters", near the Bhutan and Myanmar borders: an extremely rough area that is often closed due to tribal and political disputes. After her recent third visit to this region she was able to penetrate further into Nagaland and, with the help of the royal family, visit the tribes of Tripura. She has additionally, been exploring the tribal east-central hill states of Orissa and Chhattisgarh.

"I find the lesser-known regions of India singularly fascinating. These are people living on the margin of Indian society. They are tucked away in harsh terrain close to the borders of Myanmar, Bhutan, Pakistan, and China, as well as in the hill country of obscure states such as Orissa and Chhattisgarh. Each tribe has distinctive language, traditions, and tribal ceremonies, even within a larger tribal group (such as the Nagas). Most live in areas that have basic infrastructure and are only recently being connected by roads and electricity."

All of Nevada's images are printed in her studio where she oversees every technical and aesthetic detail in the printmaking process. In the exhibition, there are three different processes including color, digital infrared, and de-saturated color. She says of the medium, "I love the art of digital printmaking; there is an art in sculpting a print. Although I do not crop or change any content of an image, I do enjoy experimenting with de-saturating and accentuating certain colors. Digital infrared gives me a look that I can not achieve with color and it is best during lighting conditions that would not work for color."

Nevada Wier is an award-winning photographer specializing in the remote corners of the globe and the cultures that inhabit them. Her journeys have taken her throughout Southeast Asia, India, China, Nepal, Africa, New Zealand, Central Asia, Mongolia, South America and other obscure regions of the world. She has been published in numerous national and international publications, including: *NG Adventure*, *Geo*, *Islands*, *National Geographic*, *Outdoor Photographer*, *Outside*, and *Smithsonian*. She is a Fellow of The Explorer's Club and a member of the Women's Geographic Society. She was the author and photographer of *Adventure Travel Photography* (Amphoto). She was a participating photographer in *A Day in the Life of Thailand* (Collins), *Planet Vegas* (Collins) and *Mother Earth* (Sierra Clubs Books). Her current book in-progress is *A Nomadic Vision* (expected published date 2010).

Nevada was the photographer for *The Land of Nine Dragons - Vietnam Today* (Abbeville Press), photography from contemporary Vietnam, winner of the Lowell Thomas Best Travel Book of 1992 award. She was the author and photographer of *Adventure Travel Photography* (Amphoto). She was a participating photographer in *A Day in the Life of Thailand* (Collins), *Planet Vegas* (Collins) and *Mother Earth* (Sierra Clubs Books). Getty Images, Blend, and Corbis represent Nevada's stock photography work. Nevada is an instructor for photography workshops at The Santa Fe Workshops, The Rocky Mt. School of Photography, Mountain Light, Sundance, and other educational institutions. She leads custom photography tours with National Geographic Expeditions.