

Archives

Banff Mountain Photography Competition Winners **2001**

Grand Prize

Native Vision #1.

Photographer: © Scott Spiker, Columbus Falls, Montana, USA



"In August of 2000, I was looking to diversify my portfolio by adding some environmental portraiture and thought that something from one of the local Native American tribes would work well. A couple of phone calls put me in touch with John Ground of the Blackfoot Tribe in Browning, Montana. John had a couple of headdresses he wore during ceremonies. His Chicken Dancing Headdress struck me, with its dramatic veil of metal beads on the front. I arranged to meet John near a group of canvas teepees at the edge of town, and we waited for sunset. A storm approached, appearing ominous, and I feared that we would have to reschedule. At the last minute, a thin strip of clear, blue sky split the dark clouds on the horizon and we had about ten minutes of fantastic storm light for shooting."

Scott Spiker owns and operates an international commercial-assignment and stock-photography business out of northwest Montana. He got his start behind the lens as a photojournalist at the *Daily Idahonian* in Moscow, Idaho. Scott has since moved on to editorial and commercial work for such clients as *National Geographic Adventure*, *Outside*, REI, The North Face and Patagonia. His work recently received the Award of Excellence from Communication Arts, and he was honoured by the selection of one of his snowboard images for an American postage stamp.

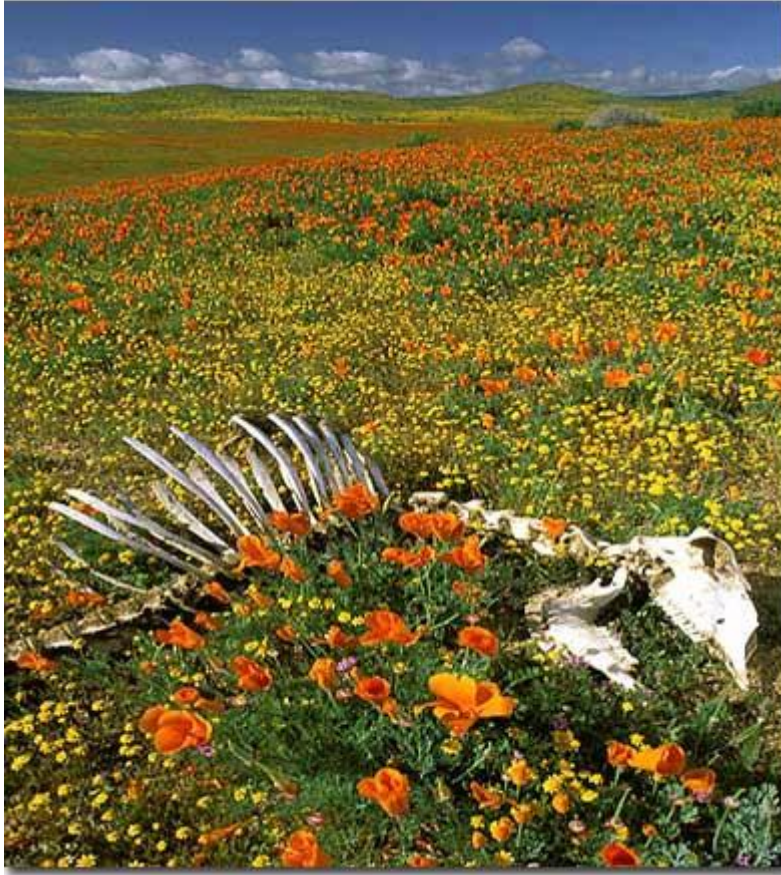
Native Vision #1

Scott Spiker, Columbia Falls, Montana, USA

Best Photo - Mountain Flora and Fauna

Skeleton with Flowers.

Photograher: © Jaime Trento, Banff, Alberta, Canada



"In late April 2001, I travelled to California in order to photograph the spring bloom of California poppies in the desert northeast of Los Angeles. Timing is everything in wildflower photography, as the bloom can vary greatly from year to year. When I arrived at the poppy preserve, there was scarcely a flower around! But after asking the locals a few questions I finally located the legendary display. A particularly wet winter had led to a great show of these spectacular flowers. Square miles of orange floral patchwork carpeted the western foothills of the Sierras. Luckily, my rental car got stuck in the sand at a dry river-wash crossing. Not far from where I was marooned, the skeleton of a wild animal lay bleaching in the desert sun, with poppies decorating its natural grave."

Skeleton with Flowers

Jaime Trento, Banff, Alberta, Canada

Best Photo - Mountain Environment

A Himalayan Mountain Environment Transformed, Kakani, Nepal.
Photographer: © Jack Ives, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada



"The Middle Mountains of Nepal have been victims of misguided Western and aid-agency attention for several decades; deforestation by so-called ignorant subsistence farmers has been blamed for accelerated soil erosion, increased landslides, and downstream flooding in Gangetic India and Bangladesh. However, this totally transformed Middle Mountains landscape is a model of soil conservation maintained by an environmentally aware agrarian community. United Nations University research has been instrumental in emphasizing the roles played by very poor farmers." Hasselblad 500C with Zeiss Sonar, f = 250mm: Ektachrome 64

Jack Ives' earliest interests involved glaciology and the physical aspects of mountains and the Arctic. In 1973, UNESCO invited him under the "Man and the Biosphere" program to work with an international team of academics on human interactions with mountains. In 1978, he was appointed coordinator of United Nations University's mountain research project. The work included the training of young scholars from mountain countries around the world and led Jack to research in the Himalayas, Tibet, southwest China, Tajikistan, the Andes, the Caucasus and elsewhere. Ives says, "The opportunities for such exotic travel further developed my enthusiasm for photography, especially using the Hasselblad system. Photography has been a tool for demonstrating my mountain experience to my university students."

Professor Emeritus, Environmental Science, University of California; Davis Honorary Research Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa

A Himalayan Mountain Environment Transformed, Kakani Nepal
Jack Ives, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Best Photo - Mountain Landscape

Sleeping Lady Afterglow.

Photographer: © Larry Anderson, Anchorage, Alaska, USA



"Mount Susitna is a 4396-foot mountain visible from Anchorage, Alaska. Native Indian legend tells a story of an Indian princess who lies down to sleep, waiting for the return of her brave from battle. In the legend, she turns to stone; ever since, the mountain has been known as "Sleeping Lady". On the magical evening when this image was taken, Anchorage was treated to a spectacular display of northern lights. People from all over the city were looking into the evening sky and being dazzled by nature's light show. Normally, light pollution from Anchorage

overpowers the northern lights, but from time to time an unusually strong display can be seen from the city — as was the case on this particular evening. This image was taken two hours after sunset. It was completely dark when I took the picture; fortunately, the last trace of the sunset registered on the film, creating a dramatic image."

Larry Anderson has lived in Anchorage, Alaska, since 1982. Originally from Aurora, Ohio, he had long wished to see Alaska when, at the age of 24, he made the long drive north, never to leave. His interest in photography grew, as did his love for this beautiful land. He has spent the last twenty years travelling throughout Alaska — from the southeast Panhandle to the frigid North Slope — capturing its beauty on film. On seeing Alaska for the first time, he was struck by the wild beauty of the land and then by its abundant wildlife. His first winter introduced him to a new wonder: the northern lights. He has since spent many a cold night watching and photographing this intriguing phenomenon.

Sleeping Lady Afterglow

Larry Anderson, Anchorage, Alaska, USA

Best Photo - Mountain Adventure

Airtime.

Photographer: © Jakob Helbig, Copenhagen, Denmark



"On meeting old ski heroes: I met Kirk Jensen on a road trip I was doing for the French *Skieur Magazine*. We toured British Columbia for four weeks. One of the great people I met on my trip was Kirk, whom I remembered from some of the old ski movies. He is now working in Whitewater, and he was our guide for half a day."

Jakob Helbig was born in 1970 and lives in Denmark, which he describes as one of the flatter countries on the planet. He tries to compensate by spending as much time as possible in the great outdoors. He was educated as a technical photographer and shoots in and out of the studio in Copenhagen. His corporate clients include Nike and Coca-Cola, and he also does food photography.

Airtime

Jakob Helbig, Copenhagen, Denmark

Best Photo - Mountain Culture

Samburu Honey Hunters.

Photographer: © Bobby Model, Cody, Wyoming, USA



"This image was made while I was covering a climbing expedition to Mount Poi in northern Kenya. Surrounding our basecamp in the Ndoto Mountains were several villages of the local Samburu and Rendille tribes. A number of the young Samburu warriors befriended me and invited me to accompany them as they tended their goats and hunted for wild honey. Following one successful honey raid, my hosts walked to a nearby overlook and treated themselves to a portion of the sweet honeycomb. While licking our fingers clean, we enjoyed the last rays of sunlight, then stumbled down through the dark forest to their village to share the remainder of the harvest."

Samburu Honey Hunters

Bobby Model, Cody, Wyoming, USA

Special Mention

Tonquin Valley.

Photographer: © Jaime Trento, Banff, Alberta, Canada



"In August of 2000, a few fellow photographers and I travelled into the Tonquin Valley for three days of splendid photography. All three mornings and all three evenings were spent on the shores of Amethyst Lakes, with the Rampart Mountains towering straight out of the water on the opposite shore. In the mornings, the rock massif was aglow with a golden pink colour and the clouds danced crimson. However, my favourite photo of the trip was taken well after sunrise, when warm colours had long faded and cooler blues dominated the fantastic landscape."

Jaime Trento was born 31 years ago and grew up with a healthy appreciation of the mountain environment that forms the backdrop to his native home of Calgary. In 1994, a future in athletics took a dramatic twist, as did his ankle, on his first trip with his new camera to the mountains. His track aspirations halted, Jaime was given the opportunity to pursue a career in photography. Jaime's work has been featured in several advertising and photo publications including *Australia and New Zealand Photography International*, *Photo Life* and *Mountain Heritage Magazine*. Jaime has lived in Banff on and off since 1988; his goal is to travel the world, funded by his photography. His rewards are the smiles of those who view his art and the countless hours spent amidst the landscape he loves.

Tonquin Valley

Jaime Trento, Banff, Alberta, Canada

Special Mention

Naked Trees.

Photographer: © Jakob Helbig, Copenhagen, Denmark.



"We were going to ski tour in Ushuaia, in the very south of Argentina, when El Niño decided to stop the snowstorms in that area. There was practically no snow that year, so we decided to fly north to do a crossing in and out of the Hielo Continental, the South American inland ice cap. A few minutes after leaving El Calafate, we started walking through miles of terrain like this. A huge fire had destroyed large areas of wood months before, and rough weather had polished the burned trees partly white."

Naked Trees

Jakob Helbig, Copenhagen, Denmark

Special Mention

Nepali Sherpa Girls.

Photographer: © Bobby Model, Cody, Wyoming, USA



"I was covering a climbing expedition to the chaotic south side of Mount Everest when I made this image. While trekking to Basecamp, I noticed out of the corner of my eye a young Sherpa girl carrying her sister. Usually I make time to establish a rapport with subjects before photographing them, but in this instance the timing didn't allow me that opportunity. I simply followed my instincts in order to capture the moment before it was gone."

Bobby Model was born and raised in Cody, Wyoming. As a teen, he became passionate about rock climbing and shortly thereafter began accompanying climbing expeditions to remote mountain ranges. Model's photography focuses on documenting the various sequences of events that unfold during his journeys. His photographs have been published in books and magazines worldwide.

Nepali Sherpa Girls

Bobby Model, Cody, Wyoming, USA

Special Mention

Launch Site at Boundary Creek, Middle Fork of the Salmon River.
Photographer: © Jerry Hadam, Fairfield, Idaho, USA



"I have been to Boundary Creek many times, and at least fifty times since this photo was taken. I have never seen more boats than on this July morning when I counted 57. It was truly amazing to see that much equipment getting ready to go on a "wilderness" river trip. What does not show in the photo is how well everyone worked together: passing gear and sharing pumps and laughter as they all tried to rig their boats stacked six deep in the eddy. I had spent the previous evening at a memorial service for Dan Hattula at Dagger Falls, a location just upstream. He was the man who had invited me on a Main Salmon trip, thereby introducing me to rafting. To him, I am grateful."

After taking a ten-year hiatus from commercial photography to be a river guide and snowboard instructor, photographer Jerry Hadam has been working hard the last few years. Although riverscapes are his favourite subject, Hadam has photographed for nearly every newspaper in the region. Recently he has taken on national markets, with assignments for *Time*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New York Times*. A native Idahoan, Hadam works out of Ketchum, Idaho. In June 2000, he opened Photos Do Not Bend – Gallery & Studio, with gallery partner Thia Konig. He lives in Fairfield, Idaho, with his wife, Betsy Castle. In 1999, they spent their honeymoon on the Middle Fork of the Salmon and saw a total of six people in eight days.

Launch Site at Boundary Creek, Middle Fork of the Salmon River
Jerry Hadam, Fairfield, Idaho, USA

Special Mention

Wolf in Aspen Forest.

Photographer: © Darwin Wiggett, Water Valley, Alberta, Canada



"In Jasper National Park and in the Bow-Crow and Clearwater forest reserves, I have seen lone wolves on several occasions. I am always intrigued when I see a lone wolf, especially since the wolf is a highly social species. I was struck by this haunting scene of fog in an aspen and balsam poplar forest while doing landscape photography in the foothills of the Rockies, and I thought it would be a perfect setting for a lone wolf. I asked Tom Kitchin, famous wildlife photographer, if I could borrow one of his fine wolf photos in order to merge the image into my landscape. He agreed. A little Photoshop magic produced the result you see here. For me, this photo has a mysterious quality that captures the emotions I feel when seeing wolves in the wild."

Darwin Wiggett is a nature, landscape and lifestyle photographer whose work is represented by First Light Agency in Toronto. Darwin's photos appear worldwide in magazines, calendars, books and advertising. He has two books: *Darwin Wiggett Photographs Canada* and *Seasons in the Rockies*, both distributed through Whitecap Books.

Wolf in Aspen Forest

Darwin Wiggett, Water Valley, Alberta, Canada

Special Mention

Jasper Slate #1.

Photographer: © Frank Grisdale, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



"Jasper National Park is a three-and-a-half-hour drive from Frank Grisdale's home in Edmonton. In 2001, he was averaging two trips a month to Jasper specifically to photograph the same places in different light and weather conditions — sometimes back and forth in the same day. The slate wall where he found this image is located right on the highway. The wall is about 50 feet high and 300 feet long. Some parts of it have been defaced with graffiti. The park workers can only repair some of the damage; unfortunately, the defacing along this beautiful wall is permanent. This textured image is stunning because of the rare colours, the converging and diverging lines in the composition, and the fact that it is a purely natural abstract. There are hundreds of abstract images still to be mined out of this wall — as long one can keep ahead of the graffiti."

Frank Grisdale shoots with an old, fully manual Nikon FM2 and also uses a Hobo — a handmade, manual, wooden 8 x 10 camera that he uses hand-held. He shoots landscape images almost exclusively, with a focus on the abstract. His photography is in collections of the Alberta Foundation of the Arts, the Toronto Dominion Bank and Oxford Properties. His first solo exhibition of 45 abstract landscapes, "Drawing with Light", will be presented by the Provincial Museum of Alberta in the winter of 2002.

Jasper Slate #1

Frank Grisdale, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada