

Banff Mountain Photography Competition 2003

Grand Prize



Grand Prize, 2003 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

Autumn Sunset in the Heart of Tombstone, Tombstone Territorial Park, Yukon
© Fritz Mueller, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada

"Tombstone is an iconic landscape and one of my favourite wilderness areas. It's a new Yukon park established with the local First Nation, though there's still controversy over unresolved mineral claims. The light can be magical and the landscape haunting, yet we waited in our tent for six days in rain, snow and fog until shafts of light finally began to penetrate the gloomy skies. This image was made with a medium-format panorama camera: heavy to haul in the backcountry, but well worth the effort at moments like this."

Fritz Mueller is a wildlife biologist and nature photographer based in Whitehorse, Yukon. Having grown up in B.C.'s Coast Mountains, Fritz recalls being surrounded by a herd of mountain goats as a teenager with his first camera in hand. The experience left a strong impression, and his ongoing interest in wildlife shaped his career. He has worked as a professional biologist for over a decade, and in recent years also as a nature photographer. Fritz and his wife, writer Teresa Earle, combine their interests in natural history, wilderness travel and photography and are currently working together on a book about the Yukon.

www.fritzmueller.com

Mountain Adventure



"Have a Good Flight"
© Rainer Eder,
Zürich, Switzerland

*Best photo on
Mountain Adventure
2003 Banff Mountain
Photography Competition*

"Originally, freerider Sascha Schmid and I both went to Silvaplana (near St. Moritz in the Swiss Alps) for the first Engadin Snow Extremeski and Snowboard Contest.

" After the contest, we still had several hours of daylight left and the two of us decided spontaneously to go for some shots off the track. Sascha convinced me to go to a spot that he had recently discovered and that he thought would be perfect for a shoot. After warming up with a couple of rolls of film, we hit this wonderful, orange-reddish cliff, and Sascha checked the drop-off while I set myself up below the rock and mounted the 16-mm fish-eye on my Nikon F5. On 'Three,' Sascha jumped with skis crossed directly over my head, followed by loads of snow - everything went very fast. I have to admit that I was not completely sure about the result before I had it on my light box the next day."

Rainer Eder has been based in Zürich, Switzerland, for several years now, his proximity to the Alps proving to be advantageous for his photography. Rainer's career as a photographer began when he started taking pictures of his climbing buddies, very soon after he himself started climbing, at the age of 16. Today he focuses on extreme sports - the more spectacular the activity, the bigger the thrill for this native Austrian. Rainer has published numerous images worldwide, mainly in special-interest magazines, and works on a regular basis for well-known companies in the outdoor industry.

www.rainereder.com

Mountain Culture



"Skij-CH"
© François Portmann,
New York City, New York, U.S.A.

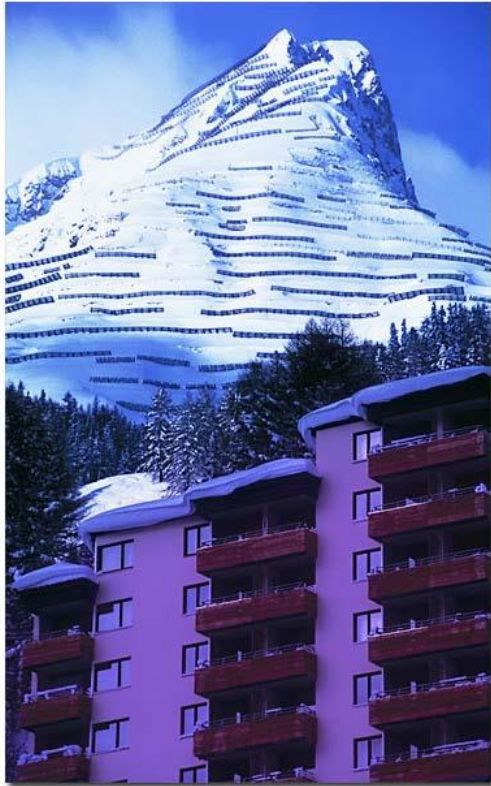
*Best photo on
Mountain Culture
2003 Banff Mountain
Photography Competition*

"Every winter, in the shadow of the international horse races on snow in St. Moritz, Switzerland, a small association of farmers and mountain people, Cheval pour Tous, organizes a local skijoring tournament. The goal is to promote, in a friendly and low-key atmosphere, the use of the horse for both work and play. This particular event, where a younger horse was being introduced to the art of "long-rein" skijoring (a more difficult version of the sport, with no rider), took place in Col-des-Mosses, on the western slopes of the Bernese Alps. I have been shooting a "work in progress" on horses and horse cultures around the world for several years. This opportunity came to my attention during another visit to Switzerland as I was flipping through the pages of an agricultural paper."

Swiss photographer François Portmann has called New York City home for over a decade and spends most of his time on the road, shooting assignments in mountains, deserts and urban-jungle locations. Combining portraiture, the photography of people in action, and editorial skills with his skiing, mountaineering and backcountry experience, he focuses on adventure, outdoor-lifestyle and travel photography. As a freelancer, he contributes to the slick pages of magazines such as *Ski*, *Skiing*, *Bicycling*, *Mountain Bike*, *S.I.Kids*, *2-ZERO* and to other cutting-edge publications both domestic and European-based. His roster of clients also includes Red Bull, Philip Morris and Swiss Airlines.

www.fotoportmann.com

Mountain Environment



"Davos-II"
© François Portmann,
New York City, New York, U.S.A.

*Best photo on
Mountain Environment
2003 Banff Mountain
Photography Competition*

"During a recent trip to southeastern Switzerland, I was able to spend a few days in Davos, home of the Swiss Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research. This organization conducts studies as close as on the neighbouring peak, where these avalanche barriers have been built to restrain tens of feet of annual snowfall. Though still relatively snow-free in this mid-February picture, they will fill quickly; Davos has experienced high snowfall in recent winters. In Switzerland as well as other alpine countries, the growth of communities is expanding the limits of development."

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www.fotoportmann.com

Mountain Flora & Fauna



"Bigleaf Maple:
Leaves and Reflection"
© Jeff Friesen, Victoria,
British Columbia, Canada

*Best photo on
Flora & Fauna
2003 Banff Mountain
Photography Competition*

"In autumn, the Goldstream River's annual salmon run brings out thousands of people who watch the spectacle from its shores. The life-and-death spawning ritual, combined with the hushed onlookers, gives the Vancouver Island air a cathedral-like ambiance. Bigleaf maples line the river's shores, soaring like flying buttresses towards the sky. Light filters through their leaves as if through stained glass.

"Like the salmon, I return here every autumn, looking through my camera's viewfinder as compositions live and die upon a breath of wind.

"When photographing landscapes, I turn my attention away from dramatic backdrops, preferring instead to visually mine the details for nuggets of wonder. My goal is to make faithful documentary photographs that appear to defy reality. 'Bigleaf Maple: Leaves and Reflection' is such a picture. A combination of shadows, sunlight, wind, reflections and surface tension are joined in the image, creating a unique portrait of the bigleaf maple."

Jeff Friesen's photography is published worldwide, and he has won several international awards for his images, including in contests sponsored by American Photo and Communication Arts. His body of work, "Seeing Water", was awarded one of five solo shows at the British Columbia Festival of the Arts. Friesen's photographs have appeared in magazines such as *Canoe and Kayak*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Gardening Life*, *Pacific Yachting* and *Beautiful British Columbia*.

www.jeff-friesen.com

Mountain Landscape



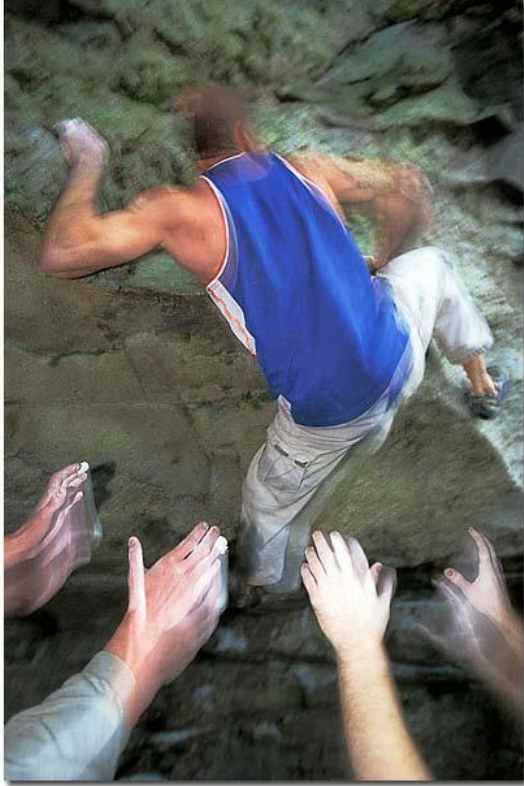
Best Photo on Mountain Landscape, 2003 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

"Mountain Goats and Glaciers, Kluane National Park, Yukon"

© Fritz Mueller, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada

"Kluane National Park is known for immense icefields, giant peaks, and wildlife; on this trip, however, Kluane offered a surprise from the other side of the world. At the time, we attributed the pink glow in the atmosphere to forest fires. But it turned out that global wind currents had carried clouds of dust all the way to northern Canada from a desert storm in Mongolia. For a few days, the Yukon was bathed in desert dust - a photographer's dream. I've got a soft spot for mountain goats, and this group was incredibly peaceful and nonchalant as they gazed out over one of the most surreal settings I've ever experienced."

Fritz Mueller is a wildlife biologist and nature photographer based in Whitehorse, Yukon. Having grown up in B.C.'s Coast Mountains, Fritz recalls being surrounded by a herd of mountain goats as a teenager with his first camera in hand. The experience left a strong impression, and his ongoing interest in wildlife shaped his career. He has worked as a professional biologist for over a decade, and in recent years also as a nature photographer. Fritz and his wife, writer Teresa Earle, combine their interests in natural history, wilderness travel and photography and are currently working together on a book about the Yukon. www.fritzmueller.com



"Alister King Bouldering,
Squamish, B.C."
© Chris Atkinson, Squamish,
British Columbia, Canada

*Special Mention
2003 Banff Mountain
Photography Competition*

"In the spring of 2001, Brian Goldstone and I were producing a bouldering video titled *No Strings Attached*, which became a finalist and toured with the Banff Mountain Film Festival that year. Bouldering was not yet in vogue; the energy and excitement around the boulders was intense. Many new problems were being put up each weekend, and there was a great sense of support and community surrounding it all. Offering a glimpse into the boulderer's world, this image of Alister captures a bit of that energy and sense of community."

Raised on the beaches and in the mountains of western Canada, Christopher Atkinson has made wilder places the focus of his life. During his various careers - including backcountry ranger, mountain guide and Hollywood stunt rigger - and throughout his international travels, Chris' camera has always accompanied him. His work has been published in numerous catalogues and guidebooks and in magazines such as *Climbing* and *Explore* and is featured in his recently published climbers' guidebook to the Bugaboos.



Special Mention, 2003 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

"Powder Eights"

© Gary Brettbacher, Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada

"This image was shot at the World Powder Eight Championships in the Cariboo Mountains of British Columbia a while back. At the time, judging for this event was based on synchronization of the skiers and symmetry of the turns. Essentially, two skiers line up one behind the other. They go at the same time and technically try to make the same turns all the way to the bottom. The competition is held on a course that averages 160 turns, so even though these competitors are the best in the world, their legs are burning big time at the finish line. It would be very difficult to duplicate this shot today. Since this image was taken, the competition has become a timed event, so speed has become a factor in the judging. Today, for every three turns you see in this shot, there would be only one turn, creating an entirely different tapestry. An hour after this event was complete, a storm rolled in, and we got 30 cm of new snow that night. The following morning, this entire scene was gone."

Gary Brettbacher has been an independent freelance photographer in the outdoor industry for 25 years. He specializes in aeriels and sports-action, adventure-travel and stock photography. Gary has been published nationally and internationally in major publications, and his work is distributed by a worldwide network of stock houses.
www.islandimages.ca



"B & W Powder Series #13"
© Keoki Flagg, Olympic Valley,
California, U.S.A.

*Special Mention
2003 Banff Mountain
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"This image was captured on assignment in Alaska for Warren Miller. Strapped in, doors off, shooting from the helicopter, we spiralled down in pursuit of Kent Kreitler as he bagged another first descent in the Chugach (Cordova, Alaska).

"Travelling has always been a major force in my life and art. For me, it has always been about the path; it is my objective not only to capture the faces of other worlds, but to show the world through the eyes of my subjects. The passion for the unknown will always be my driving force."

Based out of Squaw Valley, California, Keoki Flagg Photographics specializes in adventure travel, extreme sports and social-demographic portraiture. Keoki's travels have taken him everywhere, from the Zambezi River in Africa to Alaska's Chugach Mountains. He is a member of the Explorers Club and has worked hard to make his occupation his best excuse to get out there.

Keoki's client list includes VISA U.S.A., Rossignol and DuPont, and his work has been featured in *National Geographic Adventure*, *Ski* and *Skiing* magazines, *Sports Illustrated for Women*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *Audubon*, *Vogue*, *In Style* and *Archaeology Magazine*.



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"Annual Run to the Summit of Ben Nevis, Scotland, U.K."

© Paul Harris, Harrogate, U.K.

"Ben Nevis (4410 ft.) is the highest mountain in Great Britain and receives thousands of visitors every year. The annual run up to the summit now attracts several hundred hardy fell runners. I had been waiting for a few days of clear weather to photograph on the west coast of Scotland and decided to cover the run in less than ideal conditions. Low on the mountain, the runners are still close together, and I liked the effect of using a slow shutter speed to create a flowing river of humanity as the runners begin to catch their second breath and find their pace."

Paul Harris has long held a passionate interest for adventure travel and indigenous cultures. He trained as a documentary photographer and has been published worldwide. In 1990, Paul photographed ancient courier routes across the steppes of Mongolia for a book. Subsequent projects involved journeys through far eastern Russia, through Vietnam, the Malay Archipelago and Iran, along India's northwestern frontiers and, most recently, in Niger, Tibet and Honduras. His portraits of British explorers are part of the permanent collection of the Royal Geographical Society, of which he is a fellow. Paul is also a recipient of the Society's Cherry Kearton Medal (1995) for photography of "peoples and the natural world".

www.paulharris.net



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"Foothill"

© John G. Kelley, Falmouth, Maine, U.S.A.

"On an August morning in 2001, I set out to hike along foothills on the eastern side of the Sawtooth valley in Idaho. The sky was cloudless and deep blue. My intent was to find a vantage point for a particular canyon on the western side of the valley which lay in the Sawtooth Mountains and to return at dawn on a later date in order to catch the magic morning light. After walking for a couple of hours in intense sun, I saw a tiny stand of aspen and headed over to enjoy its shade. As I sat and stretched and cooled off, a long feathering of clouds rose over the mountains and wheeled across the valley. The scene proved irresistible.

"That morning encapsulated everything I love about mountains and photography: unpredictability, opening oneself to what the moment offers, and being out among incredible beauty."

John G. Kelley's photography explores the openness and expanses of the Maine coast and the American West. A former resident of Alaska and Idaho, John is a lifelong naturalist who makes his home in Falmouth, Maine. His images have appeared in numerous publications, and his work is represented by galleries in Falmouth, Maine, and Sun Valley, Idaho.

www.johngkelley.com



"John Varco Climbing in
Chamonix, France"
© Cameron Lawson,
Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.

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"A blustery storm enshrouded the flanks of Mont Blanc. It was early February, and the temperatures hovered around -15°C . The wind howled through a col near the Simond hut. Not a day for photography, but my desire to get some dramatic images overpowered the wiser decision to stay inside. John Varco, Sue Nott and I went out in search of some climbing and found a great spine of rock near the Cosmique Arête. This image brings back memories of the wild conditions we encountered."

Cameron Lawson began his photographic career in 1988, while working as an assistant guide on Denali. "I would come home from a climbing expedition and find it hard to describe the experience and beauty to my friends and family," he says. "Photography provided me the vehicle with which to tell the visual story." Cameron's assignments have taken him around the world, from India to Norway, shooting for clients such as *Outside*, *Smithsonian* and Philip Morris. In the spring of 2002, he was featured in *Nikon World Portfolio*.

www.cameronlawson.com



Special Mention, 2003 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

"Morning over South China"

© Sergey Melnikoff, Tashkent City, Uzbekistan

"This photo was taken at dawn in the mountains near Guilin, south China. In order to get it, I had to spend the night on top of the mountain, in a bamboo jungle. For my sleepless night and my patience, however, I was rewarded by a striking dawn in which the clouds and the morning haze, through which I could see 21 different scenes. It was only afterwards that the old-timers of the area told me that such a meteor could be observed only two or three days per year."

Dr. Sergey Melnikoff is the founder and president of International Photo & Video News Inc. (Pennsylvania, U.S.A.). Sergey is a professional traveller and the initiator and leader of dozens of difficult mountain and underwater expeditions all over the world. Born in the U.S.S.R., he has three degrees of higher education and was a member of the board of directors of the Soviet Cultural Fund. Sergey spent five years as a dissident in Soviet camps before escaping from the U.S.S.R. in 1990 and being transferred to the U.S.A. as a political refugee. He is the author of the book *American Prisoners Are Always an Asset*, about American prisoners of war in the Soviet Gulag.

www.ipvnews.com



Special Mention, 2003 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

"Potato Farmers, Huaraz, Peru"

© Nicole Morgenthau, Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.

"When I saw this family of potato farmers planting seeds above Huaraz, Peru, I thought that I had better get this on film. I asked their permission in my poor Spanish. Without understanding a word I had said, their response was very warm. This family of Quechuan Indians didn't speak Spanish or English, but our communication was clear. The El Niño weather brought some of the stormiest, most moisture-promising skies I had ever seen. This thirty-something couple with their one stunning daughter was a promising sight as well."

Nicole grew up 19 miles south of Manhattan. On frequent train rides into "the City", she remembers having to elbow her mother for staring at people. With age, Nicole realized that she was just as curious as her mother. Curiosity took her out West, where she studied photography at Montana State University in Bozeman. Nicole developed a love for the outdoors and began documenting her adventures. Since then, her work has appeared in various magazines, catalogues and galleries.

www.nicolemorgenthau.com



Special Mention, 2003 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

"Fields of Gold"

© Dan Rafla, Banff, Alberta, Canada

"This photo was taken in the town of Jiri, where the road ends and the trail to Sagarmatha National Park begins. Travel to this town was delayed and made difficult by an unforeseen tragedy that affected many Nepalese people. After two days sitting atop a bus, hiking roads and riding in the back of a truck, it was a relief to freely walk around the town and the surrounding hills, the road now behind me. The personal appeal of this image is in its calm and tranquil quality, which was further heightened by the chaos of the previous days. The photograph was taken at the end of the day under the fading light and in the still air which offer a peaceful transition to the oncoming night."

Dan Rafla was born in 1975 on Île de Montréal. At 18, he moved to Halifax in order to pursue a degree in marine biology. Upon completion, Dan set his sights on the Canadian Rockies, which he considers home. Away from the Rockies, he may be found in the cold Bering Sea, checking to see where all the fish have gone. When the joyous day arrives and he disembarks from the boat with wobbly legs and a deep-sea stare, he heads to the mountains in order to roam and make new travel plans. Dan uses the camera to express himself, interpret his experiences and simply help his memory.



Special Mention, 2003 Banff Mountain Photography Competition

"Wild Grey Wolf, Denali National Park, Alaska"
© Kennan Ward, Santa Cruz, California, U.S.A.

"This rare opportunity to see a wild wolf gives visitors to Denali National Park, Alaska, a day to remember for the rest of their lives."

An adventurer-naturalist, Kennan Ward photographs and writes about wilderness and wildlife. In 1994, Kennan published his first book, *Grizzlies in the Wild*, which details both the natural history of grizzly bears and his personal experiences while photographing them in their native habitat. Kennan's second book, *Journeys with the Ice Bear*, chronicles his experiences with polar bears in Canada and Russia. His third book, *Denali: Reflections of a Naturalist*, chronicles thirty years of life experiences in Denali National Park. In 2001, a very special book detailing the stunning natural world of the Arctic was published - *The Last Wilderness: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*. In 2003, the second edition of his popular children's book *Born to Be Wild: Bears* was printed in hardcover. Kennan has dedicated his life to capturing the rare forms of nature on film. Whether it is an endangered rhinoceros, a once-in-a-lifetime glance from a grizzly cub, an underwater encounter while swimming with whales, or a split-second lightning strike, Kennan continues to explore remote regions of the world in order to bring back messages of uncommon beauty. Together with him in the field is his wife, Karen. Since 1986, Karen has significantly contributed to the couple's image selection as a photographer in her own right, as well as assisting with their successful publishing company, WildLight Press Inc.
www.grizzlyden.com