



*Eloquent Suri of Ethiopia* Exhibit at Pacific Grove Art Center on California's Monterey Peninsula

**Mark Overgaard**

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Reverence is a feeling of deep respect, tinged with awe.

Growing up in Southeast Asia within missionary communities, I was infused with reverence and empathy for cultures and communities not my own. Born in Thailand, I spoke Thai before English. By the time I graduated from high school, I had attended fifteen different schools in five countries. Similarly, my youthful exposure to wonders of the natural world was broad, with voyages on three oceans and five seas, travels on four continents, including numerous remote regions. I was awed by the stories and photographs in the donated old issues of National Geographic that I treasured in Thailand.

After those peripatetic early years, my technology career was based in California, starting with the San Diego area in the early 1970s. Since the early 1990s, I've been gratifyingly rooted among the redwoods and forest trails of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Ironically, my home is within fifteen miles of two of the fifteen schools I attended in my youth.

Over the past decade, I have resumed exploring the world, aiming to experience and record cultural and natural beauty, finding reverence within and beyond, envisioning our shared humanity and fragile natural world. I'm privileged to have learned in person from superlative photographic mentors, including icons like Art Wolfe, Frans Lanting and Tui de Roy, as well as numerous other outstanding image and print makers

Drawing from my image making explorations, I create themed bodies of work for exhibits and portfolios based on fine art prints produced on my large format digital printer. One domain of my work is cultural portraits of people and their environments. My hope is that you will find beauty in and empathy with the people in these images and their ways, be touched by our shared humanity. A second domain of my work is wild naturescapes. I hope these scenes and their stories inspire you to care about and support the conservation of these places, their human and wild inhabitants.

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2021 *The Eloquent Suri of Ethiopia: People, Art, Culture, Language*, Pacific Grove Art Center, Pacific Grove, CA
- 2019 *Finding Reverence*, Unitarian Universalist Church, Carmel, CA
- 2019 *Africa Wild*, Santa Cruz County Government Center, CA
- 2018 *On African Plains*, The Forum at Rancho San Antonio, Cupertino, CA
- 2018 *Connecting with the World*, Scotts Valley Public Library, CA
- 2017 *Connecting with Wild World*, Santa Cruz County Government Center, CA
- 2016 *Connecting with Reverence*, The Forum at Rancho San Antonio, Cupertino, CA
- 2015 *Cultural Encounters in Asia*, Santa Cruz County Government Center, CA

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2021 *Members' Juried Exhibition*, Center for Photographic Art, Susan Burnstine, juror, Carmel, CA
- 2020 *Bay Area Current(ly)*, PhotoAlliance, Ann Jastrab, Chris Johnson, Binh Danh, jurors, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 *In the Shadow of Corona*, Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, Image Makers of Monterey Group Exhibit, Carmel, CA
- 2020 *Annual Members' Show*, Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Ann Jastrab, juror, Denver, CA
- 2020 *Members' Juried Exhibition*, Center for Photographic Art, Ann Jastrab, Laura Sackett, jurors, Carmel, CA
- 2019 *Peripheral Vision — Divergent Travel Photography*, Santa Cruz Art League, Allison Garcia, juror, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2019 *Spring Show*, PhotoCentral, Irene Imfeld, Margaretta K. Mitchell, jurors, Hayward, CA
- 2018 *Spring Show*, PhotoCentral, Margaretta K. Mitchell, Danny Sanchez, jurors, Hayward, CA
- 2018 *Members' Juried Exhibition*, Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA; Charlie Cramer, juror, Carmel, CA
- 2017 *Spring Show*, PhotoCentral, Margaretta K. Mitchell, Danny Sanchez, jurors, Hayward, CA
- 2017 *Members' Juried Exhibition*, Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA; Elizabeth Corden, Jan Potts, jurors, Carmel, CA
- 2016 *Spring Show*, PhotoCentral, Margaretta K. Mitchell, juror, Hayward, CA
- 2015 *South of the Clouds, the Spirit of the Middle Kingdom*, Linden Gallery, Douglas Beasley, juror, Door County, MI

### **Awards**

- 2019 Best of Show, *PhotoCentral Spring Show*, Hayward, CA
- 2018 Best of Color, two Peoples' Choice Awards, *PhotoCentral Spring Show*, Hayward, CA

- 2017 Award of Excellence, two Peoples' Choice Awards, *PhotoCentral Spring Show*, Hayward, CA
- 2016 Award of Excellence, *PhotoCentral Spring Show*, Hayward, CA

**Presentations**

- 2021 *The Eloquent Suri of Ethiopia: People, Art, Culture, Language*, public Zoom-based exhibit presentation, Scotts Valley, CA
- 2020 *The Suri People and Their Body Art*, Open Show Santa Cruz, Shmuel Thaler, co-curator, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2019 *Wild Africa*, co-presented with Shem Compion, Managing Director of C4 Photographic Safaris (South Africa), Hayward, Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley (all CA)
- 2017 *Wild Winter in Japan*, Open Show Santa Cruz, Shmuel Thaler, co-curator, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2014 *Images of Asia*, Community of Digital Artists, Scotts Valley, CA

**Article**

- 2018 Overgaard, Mark, "Focus on Culture," *Outdoor Photographer*, May 2018, pp34-39

**Selected Image Licensing**

- 2020 Ramos, Imma, *Tantra: Enlightenment to Revolution*, London, Thames & Hudson Ltd. and The British Museum, 2020, p 168
- 2019 Gratzner G, Jentsch A, *Adaptation an Störungen* [English: *Adaptation to Disturbances*]. In: Wohlgemuth T, Jentsch A, Seidl I (eds) *Störungsökologie*, UTB 5018 [English: *Disturbance Ecology*], Verlag Haupt, Stuttgart, 2019, p 114

**Education**

- 2011-2019 Multi-week workshops & photo tours, including with Douglas Beasley, Marius Coetzee, Shem Compion, Suzi Eszterhas, Gavriel Jecan, Oliver Klink, Frans Lanting, Tui de Roy, Greg du Toit, Art Wolfe
- 2011 Digital Printing for the Fine Art Photographer, Charlie Cramer, San Jose, CA
- 1972-1978 MS, Computer & Info Science, UC San Diego, CA
- 1967-1971 BS, Physics, Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA

**Professional Memberships/Affiliations**

- 2020-Present Pacific Grove Art Center, Pacific Grove, CA
- 2020-Present Colorado Photographic Arts Center, Denver, CO
- 2018-Present Image Makers of Monterey, Monterey, CA
- 2017-Present Center for Photographic Art, Carmel, CA
- 2013-Present North American Nature Photography Association, Alma, IL
- 2012-Present Community of Digital Artists, Scotts Valley, CA