

Parting Shot 1

The way that led me to this picture is long.

In 2001, I fulfilled PADI course in Egypt, and for more than 10 years I had never dived. I didn't like diving that much then.

After that I got involved into panoramic and VR photography, and since then I've had certain success. I was obsessed with panoramas and captured them everywhere: on land, underground, in the air, in cars, teapots, microwave ovens, from airplanes, helicopters, air balloons. I used drones and even sent a camera to the stratosphere.

And it was only underwater panoramas that I didn't have. And it was my love to photography that once made me buy a huge and heavy camera housing and go to the Maldives.

On my arrival I went to the local diving club and signed up for the earliest possible dive. It's been ten years since my last dive and I seemed to remember nothing. But my instructor cheered me up that diving is similar to bike riding, it is something impossible to forget. "So please, sign up here and come to a pier tomorrow at 8 o'clock."

The service in the Maldives has always been very good. I was given an orange juice and a wet towel for my face. I liked the way it started. Meanwhile the crew prepared all the equipment for me, put the tank on me, fixed the belts.

"So," the instructor said, "put the mask on and jump into the water, you will recall everything!" I took my camera and jumped...

That's how my love for panoramas brought me to my second birth as a diver.

Eight years and around a thousand dives have passed since then. Due to certain



This is a single row panorama with 5 vertical shots stitched in PYGui Pro software .

Canon EOS 5D Mark IV + Canon EF 8-15mm f/4L FISHEYE USM, 1/125s f/8 ISO 800

technical difficulties I didn't use a flash. But, artistically speaking, such photos were not impressive.

It took me some years to realize that professional photos need special light. Fotteyo overhangs with golden bunches of soft corals that you can see in this picture is a rather famous place in the southern Maldives. It is impossible to cover the cave even with a fisheye lens due to its small depth. That's how I decided to create a panorama of this place. It was my first underwater panorama created with a use of light and I am so happy that such technologies push the boundaries of the underwater photography.

Now the Maldives experience difficult times as the temperature rise led to the death of many hard corals.

It is sad to see how splendid coral gardens have turned into graves of the hard pebbles.

Nevertheless, there are places that have preserved the pristine beauty, and I am happy to share it with my spectators.

This image is one of my favourite so I have printed it and put to the wall in my office:)

Oleg Gaponyuk
www.airpano.com

www.airpano.com/360photo/Underwater/?startscene=1&ath=-747.700&atv=-21.258&fov=87.16

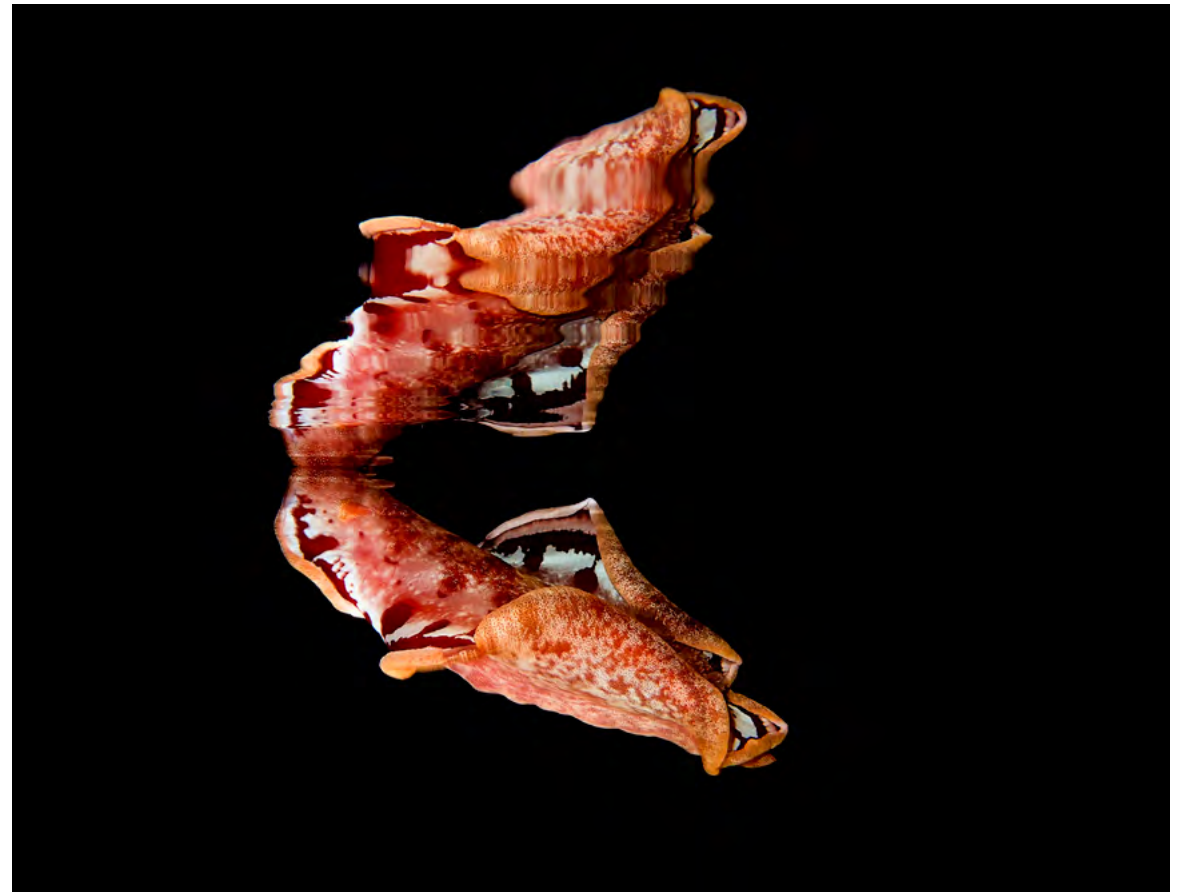
Parting Shot 2

“There is something swimming in the harbour”, said one of the neighbours of Maalhos Island. It was the 29th of December and the time was around 9 pm. I was just about to have a late dinner after a long day out diving. I grabbed my snorkelling gear, a torch and my trusty Olympus TG4, and with my brother, ran towards the harbour which was on the opposite side of the island.

They were not joking. As I approached the harbour I saw a Spanish Dancer swimming near the surface of the calm waters of Maalhos harbour, faintly illuminated by the harbour light posts. I jumped in, camera and torch in hand and got close to the magnificent Elasmobranch. Dinner was delayed that night as our little cha cha cha took to the spotlight. At first, it was shy, stopped dancing and settled on the rocks that were on the bottom of the harbour quay wall. At this point, the crowd that gathered left the harbour; shows over. Perhaps the Spanish Dancer just needed a little rest before continuing on and up, and it really wasn't long before the dance resumed. It did not mind me being close and just continued to swim around. It was the first time seeing this. I started taking some photos. At first, I had

the inbuilt flash on, which caused backscatter. I turned it off and used the torch to light up the Spanish Dancer. The still waters of the harbour allowed me to take some photos of the Spanish Dancer with its reflection on the surface of the water. After letting me take a few photos and a short video clip it swam down again, and I ended my photo session as well.

It was such a treat to see a Spanish Dancer. Especially after spending most of the time diving with Mantas and other large marine organisms. What made it more special was that Spanish Dancers are called Aa Aharu Mas, in the Maldivian language Dhivehi, which translates to the “New Year Fish”. We were just a couple of days away from beginning the new year. The name could have been given to this animal as it was often seen around new years' time. A lot of sea creatures have the suffix, Mas, meaning fish, in the local language. The Aa Aharu Mas topped off a beautiful year and we had one of our best animal encounters



Spanish Dancer (Hexabranhus sanguineus). Olympus Tough TG-4, No Housing, Big Blue Light, No Lens Attachment, F2.8, 1/60s, ISO200

right from the shore, unplanned. We will be definitely looking out for more sedentary creatures while diving around the house reef.

Adam Abdul Raheem
www.maldivers.net

**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500
words of text
and yours could be the next
Parting Shot.**
peter@uwpmag.com

Parting Shot 3

I use this as a play on words and the name of the end piece.

Back in 1989 when there was a flourishing underwater camera shop under the arches at London Embankment, a young Peter Rowlands launched what was destined to become a global magazine.. but we get ahead of ourselves.

The image shows an almost complete set of the first two years' editions of Sport Diver Magazine, less the second issue.

These magazines from a bygone era are the last remaining magazines that survived Hurricane Maria here with me in Dominica.

I recently went through them looking at the equipment from the last century, I owned one of those (new) BCDs and regulators.

What is as relevant today as it was back then are the articles from Martin Edge about underwater photography. 'Stop, compose, shoot' many of us of a certain age group still use this as a photo mantra rather than spray and pray.

The letters are rants about BSAC and their move to Liverpool, and decompression issues, but one or two are about divers throwing their lunchtime litter over the sides and a need for all to stay off the bottom to

conserve the reef, whether temperate or tropical. The need for marine conservation hasn't changed we are a bit more enlightened, the basic equipment has changed minimally, but the associated technology has and is still moving fast.

I had a good afternoon listening to rain fall heavily on the roof whilst reading my diving time capsule.

Arun Madisetti

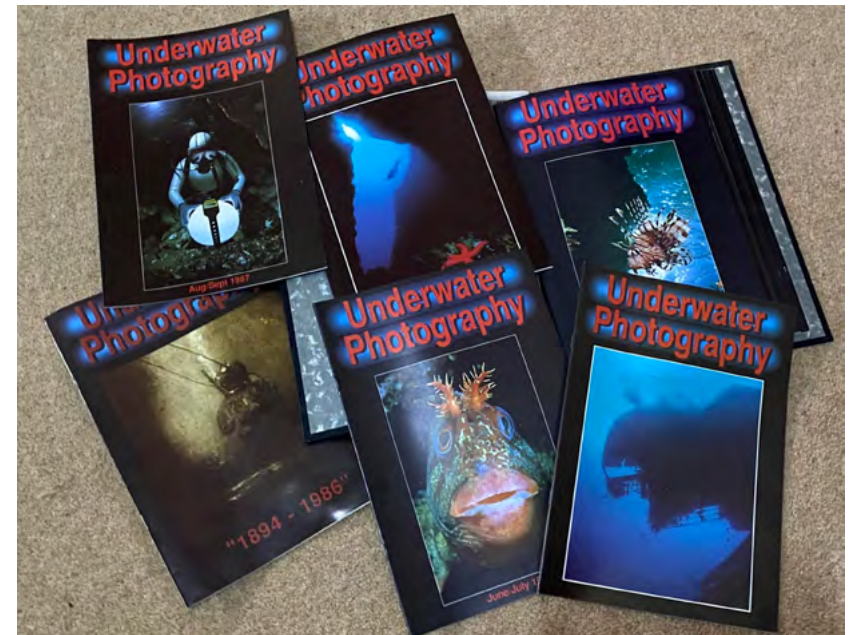
'UP' magazine

Arun's Parting Shot wouldn't be complete without a shot of 'UP' magazine - Underwater Photography - which I launched in 1987 to justify the purchase of an Apple Mac desktop publishing system complete with laserprinter.

Published and printed bi-monthly it was sent worldwide and ran for 12 issues before being expanded into SportDiver.

Financially only every other page spread could be in colour and colour images for the black and white pages were copied with black and white film and then printed to size in the darkroom and trimmed and pasted (with glue, not copy and pasted) onto the physical page.

From memory the print run was 1500 which sounds a lot but this was in the days well before the internet and information availability was much more limited and printed magazine sales were thriving.



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Peter Rowlands

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