News, Travel & Events

Brian Skerry: The Sentient Sea

Museum of Natural History, Siena, Italy

"The Sentient Sea" is a visual story that presents Brian Skerry's photographs from decades of exploring Earth's oceans.

This exhibition showcases a selection of photographs to tell stories of the ocean and portray it as a place of beauty and mystery, a place in trouble, and ultimately, a place of hope.

"Over the course of my 40-year career, I have learned that everything is connected in nature and that animals and ecosystems are more complex than we have ever known."

Brian spends eight months per year working in the field, at dive locations, ranging from tropical coral reefs to beneath the polar ice.

The innumerable animals exhibited range from giant whales to the tiniest fish, each with a wonderful story to tell.

"I am certain that animals at every level have 'personality' and that all creatures perceive and feel. And that all creatures need others."

Brian Skerry is a photojournalist and film producer specializing in marine wildlife and underwater environments. Since 1998 he has been a contract photographer for National Geographic Magazine covering stories on every continent and in nearly every ocean habitat. For NGM, Brian has covered a wide range of stories, from the harp seal's struggle to survive in frozen waters to the alarming decrease in the world's fisheries, to dolphin intelligence. During his coverage of a story entitled Saving Our Oceans, Brian produced the first images of a sitting US President underwater.

He is the author of 12 books including the acclaimed monographs Ocean Soul and Shark. His latest book, Secrets of the Whales was released in April, 2021 by National Geographic as part of a multi-platform project he created that includes a cover story in National Geographic magazine and a 4-part documentary film series, streaming on Disney+.

Brian frequently lectures on ocean exploration, storytelling and conservation, having presented at venues such as The United Nations General Assembly, The World Economic Forum in Davos (Switzerland), and the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Period: September 30th – November 19th

Opening Time:

Friday: 03:00 pm-07:00 pm

Saturday-Sunday: 10:00 am-07:00 pm

Holidays: 10:00 am-07:00 pm

https://festival.sienawards.com/en/brian-skerry-2/

Sperm whales, Dominica

March 2024

In Dominica, island paradise and congregations of sperm whales combine to thrill underwater photographers. Not well known, this small Caribbean rainforest paradise is home to a population of sperm whales all year around.

The jungle covered volcanic peaks plunge thousands of meters down into the ocean making just the conditions sperm whales love. The rich nutrient run off from the island provides a food chain to support the whales and their stable diet of deep-water squid as well as good conditions for many other marine species. The beauty of this island alone is reason enough to visit. Island treasures greet the visitor in the form of bird life, hikes to hot pools and waterfalls, gorgeous views of sunsets over the ocean, while staying among friendly hosts.

In March of 2024 Gregory Sweeney Photography has two back-to-back permits in place for in water encounters with sperm whales in Dominica. Guests will enjoy 5 full days on the water and accommodations on the water in Roseau. Our outfitters are among the most experienced in Dominica. The island values its

terrestrial and marine wildlife. Rules of encounters, permit processes, and involvement of local communities are all informed by international standards and strictly enforced. Permits are written for a maximum of 6 guests per boat giving guests ample time in the water and space on the boat.

The resident sperm whales are mostly females in extended families of grandmothers, mothers and daughters all working together to protect and raise their young. We encounter them at the surface where they are resting and often napping between their deep dives to get squid meals.

When encountered, they are near the surface moving slowly and resting in groups. The water is warm so only light wetsuits are necessary and most use either close heel fins or longer freediving fins for the snorkel.

The weather in Dominica in early March is mild and this season is within the months with the highest recorded sperm whale populations. Visitors are encouraged to stay after the whale adventure to take in the beauty of the hiking trails and the trail up to the natural hot pools.

www.gregorysweeney.com

boot Düsseldorf
WORLD SHOOTOUT

AI Usage Prohibited in World ShootOut 2023

photo: Andy Schmid, Switzerland

AI Usage Prohibition:
We want to emphasize that it is absolutely forbidden to use AI (Artificial Intelligence) in any form for image creation, enhancement, or manipulation in this year's competition. At World ShootOut, we value the traditional artistry and skill of underwater photography, and thus, all submitted images must be a result of conventional photography techniques, void of any AI-generated content.

Looking Ahead to 2024 competition:
In consideration of the evolving field of photography, we are actively exploring innovative approaches for the 2024 competition

photo: Becky Pruitt, Bonaire

REGISTERED TODAY >>>>>

Cash and Dreamy Prizes Await You!
Submit your most captivating underwater images captured between November 2nd, 2022 and November 1st, 2023, and brace yourself for an unforgettable experience!

9 challenging categories

Amateurs
Best 5 Images
Wide Angle
Macro
UW Fashion
Black Water
Environmental
Video Clips of the World
Best Picture of the year

World Shootout STARTS NOW!

Time Table

How Can You Join?
If you haven't registered yet, you can do so by clicking here

Registration can be carried out until November 1st, 2023

Registered & Submit your images >>>

www.worldshootout.org

JOIN MMF IN SOCORRO

DIVING

& research trip

JANUARY 19–27 2024 • LIMITED SPACES
EXPERIENCE OUR RESEARCH IN ACTION

AN EXCLUSIVE
DIVE & RESEARCH TRIP
with Simon & Andrea

The Marine Megafauna Foundation (MMF) has partnered with Pelagios Kakunjá for an unprecedented expedition and research trip to the extraordinary dive sites of Socorro, San Benidicto, and Roca Partida. The journey commences on January 19–27, 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **Led by world-renowned marine researchers**, and MMF co-founders, Dr. Andrea Marshall and Dr. Simon Pierce.
- Joining the trip will be Pelagios Kakunjá researcher, Madalena Cabral, who will be **deploying satellite tags on giant manta rays** for her doctoral research.
- The opportunity to **experience extraordinary encounters with marine megafauna** like giant manta rays, dolphins, schooling sharks, and migrating whales in their natural habitat.
- Travelling aboard The Nautilus UnderSea, a **legendary exploration vessel** that has been hosting scientific and filming expeditions since 1968.
- ***100% of profit from the trip supports MMF's marine research.***

LEARN MORE

MARINEMEGAFAUNA.ORG/SOCORRO

Underwater Video Academy with Matthias Lebo

I'm very proud and happy to present to you the Underwater Video Academy, the first app-based tool to help you improve your underwater video skills.

Download my new mobile App Underwater Video Academy for free:

For IOS: Link

For Android: Link

Want to improve your underwater video skills at your own pace?

Check out my online course about underwater videography (also available inside the app):

https://courses.matthiaslebo.com/s/matthiaslebo/learn-to-film-underwater

Underwater Photography Workshop
Little Cayman Beach Resort

March 2-9 & 9-16, 2024

Improve your underwater photography skills with the Backscatter photo pros at the Little Cayman Beach Resort.

With its healthy reefs and incredible diversity of marine life, Little Cayman has some of the best underwater photo opportunities in the Caribbean. Friendly groupers, turtles, and stingrays are favorite subjects for wide angle shooters. Macro shooters will find tons of blennies, gobies, nudibranchs, and crabs. Crystal-clear water with little to no current makes Little Cayman a perfect place to work on your underwater photography skills.

Beginner and intermediate underwater photographers that are looking to improve their UW images. If you have a new camera or are just starting out, this course will cover all the basics. If you have been shooting for a while but aren't happy with the results, we can help. Do you struggle with focus or exposure? Composition? Strobe position? Isolating your subject from the background? Then this is the course for you.

The best way to learn is by shooting and our photo pros will be on location with you to help improve your technique and to correct mistakes. Daily seminars throughout the trip will cover wide angle and macro shooting techniques

This course is limited to 12 guests to maximize your one-on-one time with our instructors. Before you arrive, we'll have scouted out the best dive sites in advance. You'll start seeing results right away as you apply your newfound knowledge on some of Little Cayman's most beautiful dive sites.

Space is limited so sign up now!

www.backscatter.com

Don't settle for 2nd best

Film - No Filter No White Balance

Digital - No Filter Manual White Balance

Magic Filter Manual White Balance

Digital cameras have opened up new possibilities to underwater photographers. For available light photography manual white balance is an invaluable tool for restoring colours. But when you use it without a filter you are not making the most of the technique. You're doing all the hard work without reaping the full rewards. These three photos are all taken of the same wreck in the Red Sea. The left hand image was taken on slide film, which rendered the scene completely blue. The middle image is taken with a digital SLR without a filter, using manual white balance. The white balance has brought out some of the colour of the wreck, but it has also sucked all the blue out of the water behind the wreck, making it almost grey. The right hand image is taken with the same digital camera and lens, but this time using an original Magic Filter. The filter attenuates blue light meaning that the colours of the wreck are brought out and it stands out from the background water, which is recorded as an accurate blue.

www.magic-filters.com

New Products

Marelux Apollo strobes

With over a year of dedicated development, Marelux proudly announces three highly anticipated underwater strobes.

The Apollo series, comprising of the Apollo 28, 33, and 44 models, is now in production and scheduled for market availability in the coming months.

- They are the world's first underwater strobes to support TTL, RC, and HSS simultaneously.
- Marelux has patented an underwater wireless triggering and data transmitting system exclusively for the Apollo strobes.
- Multiple (MTL) flashes, enabling fast and continuous flashes at a staggering rate of up to 10 times per second.
- Record-breaking brightness, with the Apollo 44 model reaching a remarkable GN44. Apollo 33 GN33.
- Coverage angle 110 ° (underwater Temp 6200k
- With dome diffuser, coverage angle 140 °, Temp 5500k
- Full power recycle time 0.6 second
- Full power flash: around 1000 times
- Waterproof battery chamber
- With 2 aiming light colors: 250 lumen on white, 300 lumen on red
- Max diameter 90mm, length of main body 150mm, full length including knobs 177mm
- Weight on land 950 grams (without battery, with ball mount), 1085 grams (with 3x18650 batteries and ball mount).
- Weight in water 115 grams (with 3x18650 batteries and a ball mount)

Not only do the Apollo series strobes excel in performance, but they also exhibit innovative designs, with the Apollo 33 model featuring three straight bulbs arranged in a triangle formation, producing a perfectly circular flash shape. Moreover, it includes a versatile two-color aiming light in the center, allowing users to switch between red and white as needed.

To ensure durability and longevity, the Apollo strobes are constructed using robust and waterproof materials, guaranteeing their reliability even in the harshest underwater conditions. The user-friendly interface of these strobes facilitates easy adjustment of settings and modes, making them suitable for photographers of all skill levels.

The Apollo 28 is aimed at the macro photographer and is still under development so more detailed data will come out soon in early September and shipment will start in early Q4 2023.

www.marelux.co