

Book Reviews



Water Vision

By Mirko Zanni

This book will be very easy to review because it has just won the top prize at the Antibes Film Festival!

Mirko's images immerse you, his scenery shots put you there, the eyes of his portraits watch you and, whether you realise it or not, his composition controls your eye. His macro shots are delicate yet detailed but his wreck section would have been better all in black and white.

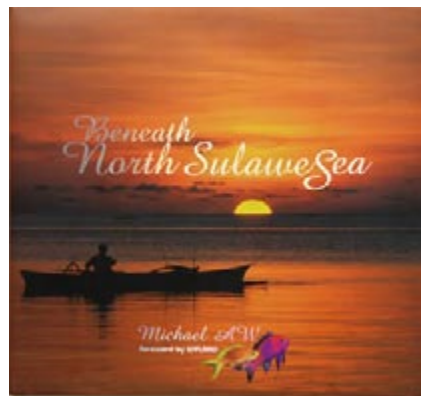
We've all seen photographs of the subjects in this book but we've not seen these sort of photographs. They combine clinical excellence with warmth.

Mirko's decision to publish this book was to make use of his images rather than keep them locked in a drawer and I, for one, am glad he did.

www.mirkozanni.com

Beneath North SulaweSea

By Michael Aw



If you've read Michael's article earlier in this issue you will know that this book was produced in an almost impossible time scale yet it delivers a quality and diversity of image that most photographers would need a decade to produce.

The result is a visual celebration of this area but rather than just a coffee book it also comes with a DVD with an audio visual combining stills and video footage to Eric Bettens soundtrack. One particularly useful feature of the book is a note of the time of day the shot was taken.

North Sulawesi is a prolific area for underwater photographers and Michael's book encapsulates all that is good in vibrant colour and detail. His shot of a mimic octopus won at the Shell BBC Wildlife Competition this year so you can expect a high standard of photography throughout.

One different section of the book is entitled 'Avant-garde' and contains some interesting images which are backlit and coloured with both daylight flash and HID lights. Nice to see such a section of visually striking and different images.

Michael Aw is renowned for the prolific quality of his output and Beneath North SulaweSea is no exception.

www.michaelaw.com

Cool Waters, Emerald Seas

By John Collins



Temperate waters cover a surprisingly large part of the globe but offer much more of a challenge to the underwater photographer than the more popular tropical seas.

This quality book contains 120 images taken over the past 20 years in seas around Ireland, Scotland, Canary Islands, Canada, South Africa and Tasmania.

Primarily a coffee table book it follows the modern trend of including quotes from prominent authors together with introductory text for each section. The photographs are both comprehensive and consistent and split into 6 main sections which have a logical flow.

Having dived in temperate waters I appreciate the effort which must have gone into producing this book. There have been some poor publications

of photographs taken in these waters but this is definitely not one of them. It is a visual celebration of a difficult environment and raises the bar for all those who may follow.

At just £19.95 it is good value.

www.corkuniversitypress.com

Terra & Agua

Fernando de Noronha

By Marcelo Krause



For the past 5 years Marcelo has been photographing this Brazilian island both above and below the water. His results will surely put it on the map internationally as a vibrant dive destination with diverse marine life and spectacular surface scenery.

Marcelo produces good images both above and below the water and the widescreen horizontal format is easy on the eye and impressive in size.

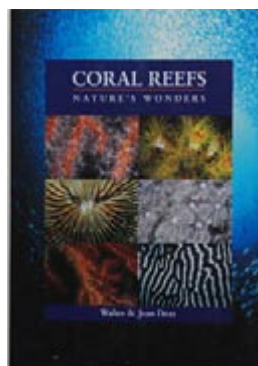
www.underwater.com.br

www.uwpmag.com

Coral Reefs

Nature's wonders

By Walter and Jean Deas



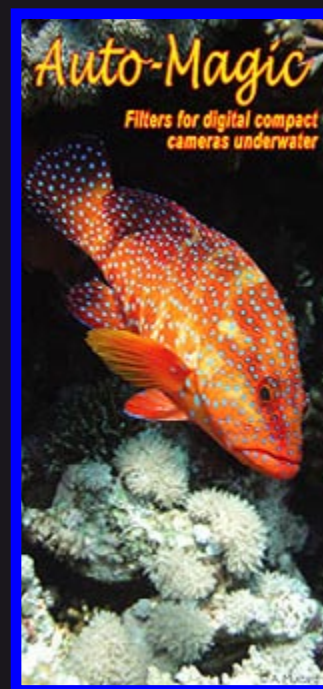
There are or seem to have been more books about coral reefs than almost any other underwater subject. As a vital part in the ocean's structure they deserve such attention but it can be quite difficult to come up with a new angle for yet another book.

I'm sure the technical information on corals in this book will be informative to those studying the subject but the visuals are more scientific than artistic.

Coral Reefs has to compete with some stiff modern opposition in terms of photography content and layout and when compared side by side this one is lacklustre and a lot of the images look dated.

www.museum.wa.gov.au

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