



Berta Walker
GALLERY

208 Bradford Street Provincetown, MA 02657 (East End of Town near Howland Street, AMPLE PARKING)
508-487-6411 BertaWalker@BertaWalkerGallery.com www.BertaWalkerGallery.com (f) 508-487-8794

OPENING AT BERTA WALKER GALLERY
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 7 - 9 PM
Exhibition continues through October 12

Nature's Mysteries
Video and photography
Video **Jay Critchley**; Photographers: **Susumu Kishihara** "Intimate Nature";
Dana McCannel "Provincetown Contrasts"; **Blair Resika** "The Artist's Model";
John Romualdi "Abstracted Nature"; **John Thomas** "Music in the Streets
of the World"

AND
Part II, Provincetown Masters
Early Provincetown Masters and Gallery Artists
"The Berta Walker Gallery is all about connections: artists, art lovers and several generations of artwork link in a heady brew, treating the senses to subtiles viewers might otherwise miss. "Early Modernist Provincetown Masters," its current exhibition, takes what in less experienced hands could have been an art history lecture and instead opens the eye to nuance and surprise. Situated in close proximity are Hans Hofmann and Oliver Chaffee, Blanche Lazzell and Sky Power. In its twenty-fifth year as a thriving Provincetown institution, Berta Walker Gallery doesn't rest on its laurels."
Susan Rand Brown, art writer for the Provincetown Banner, Provincetown Arts, and Art New England

JAY CRITCHLEY
Video Performance Piece



Jay Critchley is the creative mastermind behind decades of lively and often profound multi-media performances and installation art. One of his most famous "performance pieces" is the "Swim for Life" which takes place annually in early September and creates incredible income that is donated to health and arts groups in Provincetown.

Critchley's video performance piece, "Post-Truth Smokescreen Deployment", came out of the artist's project for the Fine Arts Work Center's 2013 auction. Artists were invited to create art from old cigar boxes. The very funny, insightful video that ensued shows Critchley "grilling* the cigar box like a grill full of hot dogs, sewing it back together, and then displaying the resulting sculpture in various

locations throughout Provincetown.

"Jay is a 'Born-again' artist, ever since arriving in Town in 1975," wrote Susan Rand Brown recently in the Provincetown Banner. "Critchley has fashioned a unique persona, able to infiltrate and elevate the ordinary into something extraordinary as a conceptual artist, performer and community activist."

Critchley presented a gallery-wide exhibition at Berta walker Gallery 25 years ago, creating "Condomnation", an installation that was not only humorous, but deeply moving. It included a collection of objects -- couches, vases, chairs, goblets -- completely covered with multi-colored, glued condoms,

focusing his abundant talents on the AIDS crisis and the use of condoms. Additional performances have included commentary on the oil and gas industry and recently, he premiered "Planet Snowvio" which premiered in Berkeley, CA, followed by a performance at the Provincetown Theater.

Critchley will be the subject of a one-person show at PAAM in the summer of 2015.

SUSUMU KISHIHARA

Intimate Nature

Susumu Kishihara has been in Provincetown for only five years, but in that five years, he has quickly become a sought after photographer of nature, winning several awards, and being included in several books on nature. He participated in a group show a few years ago at the Berta Walker Gallery where his photos were so moving, that the entire group was purchased and later donated to the walls of Outer Cape Health's new building in Provincetown. Walker has included his work in many group exhibitions ever since.



I have always been a quiet, private person. I enjoy being in Nature. I began photography with the many types of birds at the feeders in my partner's yard in Provincetown - Cardinals, Orioles, Titmouse, Gold Finches and many more. Of course that also brought me into contact with Coopers Hawks that fed on the unsuspecting birds from above, as well as an abundance of Chipmunks stuffing their cheeks with the bounty of seeds below. To my way of thinking I was in Nature not in Art. But my partner said that my photos were unusual in their style of intimacy with Nature, and urged me to send my photos to MassAudubon, various photos contests and, later, to National Geographic. My partner also loves Nature, but his disability has limited his ability to go beyond the edges of most natural areas. I soon realized that I could use my camera to bring Nature home to him.

The response to my photos has been stunning to me. Locally I began to share my photos on a Facebook page, and later in creating my own photo website. People began telling me, "I love your photography," "I love your art," but that remained a curiosity to me. I was simply being where I was most happy and peaceful; it comes from my personal and cultural understanding of stillness and patience.

Many people here in the States see patience and stillness, as well as Nature, as 'spiritual.' I grew up in the Jodo branch of Buddhism. It is not like most religions; Jodo was a Japanese adaptation of Buddhism designed to make it accessible to the masses by trimming away much of the philosophical teachings and religious practices, focusing simply on the principles of 'right behavior.' So, until coming to the Outer Cape, I had not felt myself to be either an artist or spiritual. But the responses to my work here have helped me understand how I am, indeed, both. There is much in my life that brings unexpected happiness these days, but my very happiest moments remain when I am alone with my camera among the critters in Nature, and then bring them home to my partner.

I was born in Nakatsu, Oita Prefecture, on Japan's southern island of Kyushu. Nakatsu is a small town; my father was a postman and my mother worked at a local pharmaceutical company. Both my mother and my older brother showed artistic leanings early on - in his retirement years my father has enjoyed time as an archaeological assistant. My mother has been a productive bamboo weaver, making both utilitarian and decorative bowls, mats and sculptures. My brother has been an art teacher for many years.

DANA MC CANNEL

Provincetown Contrasts

"My passion is Provincetown, my tool has always been photography," says McCannel. Born in Minneapolis, MN, she has lived and worked in Provincetown year-round for over fifteen years, and has been coming here summers from early childhood.

"I am an old-school analog photographer, who reluctantly, then enthusiastically, marched into the digital age. Catching the moment on film, or now, in pixels, continues to be what drives my photography. I never tire of grabbing a moment of Provincetown light, and carry my camera wherever I go, including my boat. These images are from my first few years of re-discovering the fun of photography and the sheer joy of living a life, through the lens." Not only does McCannel love the light, but she's intrigued by the juxtapositions of objects against the landscape or the landscape through an unusual opening. She will be represented by four large photographs which Walker refers to as "Surrealistic Provincetown."



McCannel's earlier photographs were primarily "panoramas", often five feet wide, made up of numerous individual photographs. Twenty-six years ago, the jeweler Ed Wiener walked into the Hudson Walker house where Dana was showing a few pieces to friends, and he got incredibly excited, and bought one. That winter, Berta Walker presented these panorama photos at the Provincetown Art Association's one and only official "art fair", organized by Robyn Watson, which opened amidst a blizzard on Thanksgiving Weekend. "That was the launch of my photographs." Since then McCannel has shown several times at Berta Walker Gallery, and has received shows at the Council on Aging and Seamen's Bank. She has been included in group exhibitions at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, and, much to her special joy, was included in the recent Annual Juried exhibition at Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown.

My other passion is fishing. It feeds me. It feeds my neighbors. It frees me to be an artist.

BLAIR RESIKA

The Artist's Model



BLAIR RESIKA is a multi-talented woman: professional singer, photographer, and graphic designer. In this exhibition, we are treated to the unique series she's created over the years of "The Artist's Model". These were taken of Blair's husband, painter Paul Resika as he drew or paint the artist's model in the studio or outdoors.

These are handsome and fascinating intimacies inviting us to observe the artist, observing the model.

"I became serious about doing photography in the 1960s, documenting my husband, artist Paul Resika, in his studio, painting en plein air, or

socializing with family and friends. I learned to move fast, and stay out of view, as he really doesn't like me taking picture while he's painting. Over time, and with practice and learning more deeply the various elements of black and white photography - textures, reflections, structural composition - my interest expanded from documentation to making, I hope, compelling images in their own right. The landscape and the interiors of rooms (and often the relationship between them) has been of continuing interest to me, as well as portraits, animals, and, of course, Paul Resika, and his models.

Past Curator of Photography at the Museum of Modern Art John Szarkowsky curated Blair Resika's first exhibition at the Berta Walker Gallery in 2004, picking so many favorites, that a second show was scheduled the

following year to include landscapes and interiors, while the first focused on Paul Resika at work in the studio and in nature.

Blair Resika received her first professional operatic role at 39. Throughout her career, Blair has performed classical music, returning more recently to her earlier interests in jazz and folk music. Discussing her double career in the arts with writer Elizabeth Winton in "Cape Arts Review", Blair Resika says, "music and photography are two totally different things - they couldn't be more different. Music is in your body, it's more like dancing, and it's all inside. And the photography is completely visual. It's a rather fascinating balance."

We are often treated to concerts by Blair Resika at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, and in special vignettes here and there over the years with such musicians as John Thomas.

JOHN ROMUALDI

Abstracted Nature

Multi-talented actor and photographer John Romualdi sees patterns in nature and within the man-made world. His eye brings to a photograph similar elements, he feels, as those found in the more chaotic works of abstract expressionists.

"Nature gives us moments as dazzling and discordant as what Kandinsky and De Kooning put on canvas," says Romualdi. Romualdi frequently connects directly with the earth while doing his photography, from laying on frozen ground or standing knee-deep in water to capture a specific pattern.

Romualdi learned photography when, as a teenager, he accompanied his father, who was a forensic engineer, on accident reconstructions. "We used a small Lieca camera and he would have me take extreme close-ups of broken glass and crumpled metal."

Romualdi was included in the "YES We Can" exhibition at Berta Walker Gallery in 2008, a benefit exhibition for President-elect Obama, and has exhibited frequently in Los Angeles. He is also a participant on the 9/11 website with the very photo included in the Obama exhibition. Four of his photographs are on permanent display in the X-Ray department of the Outer Cape Health Services offices in Provincetown.

Romualdi's recent acting credits include The Cherry Orchard in Chatham, NY and the Columbia Pictures September 26 release of The Equalizer with Denzel Washington.



JOHN THOMAS

Music in the Streets of the World

John Thomas is a well-known musician, composer, and music event producer of international merit. Another fascinating side of Thomas is his photography. His photos over the years reveal the personal creativity of individuals, whether they be Tibetan monks in ceremony, or the action of musicians, primarily in street performance. He is fascinated by "the essence of the moment," preserved in film of performers' actions and expressions while making music. Currently, Thomas is interested in the unique movement and physical expression of musicians on parade or performing on the sidewalk, the moments we often miss because we're focused on the sounds.

"Photographs of street music are a peculiar medium. The essence of the moment - the sound - is removed. What remains can be a unique sense of movement and color and spontaneity and evanescence that can be recorded only in a visual image." The six photographs included from Thomas' ongoing series "Music in the Streets of the World" include images from New Orleans (where it is often said that "music saves lives"), an image from San



Miguel de Allende, Mexico (a historic community where funeral parades can be so happy that joy may be one of the only appropriate emotions) and images from the annual Portuguese Festival parade in Provincetown, where ethnic tradition flourishes one weekend each year.

Gallery Hours

SEPTEMBER HOURS, 11-6, CLOSED TUESDAYS

OCTOBER HOURS, NOON - 4, CLOSED TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Other seasons, please call

And always by chance and by appointment

AMPLE PARKING

SKY POWER, Director

"The Berta Walker Gallery has been highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Provincetown's 100-year old art colony for 25 years, and is known for showing a wide variety of important Provincetown-affiliated art and artists."

Andre Van der Wende, Cape Cod Times

Representing Varujan Boghosian, Romolo Del Deo, Salvatore Del Deo, Robert DuToit, Ed Giobbi, *Dimitri Hadzi, Elspeth Halvorsen, Robert Henry, Brenda Horowitz, Penelope Jencks, David Kaplan, Judyth Katz, John Kearney, Anne MacAdam, Danielle Mailer, *Herman Maril, Erna Partoll, Sky Power, Paul Resika, Selina Trieff, Peter Watts, *Nancy Whorf, Murray Zimiles *Estates

Photography: Susumu Kishihara, Dana McCannel, Blair Resika, John Thomas

Provincetown Masters: Byron Browne, Oliver Chaffee, Marsden Hartley, Charles W. Hawthorne, Hans Hofmann, Edward Hopper, Karl Knaths, Blanche Lazzell, Ross Moffett, Agnes Weinrich.

Provincetown Folk Art and Ancient African Carvings and Bronzes



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