

Local Art

GAIA Gallery

Opening

The GAIA Art Gallery opens with an art show featuring conservation photography and mixed media paintings by Jocelyn Stokes.

Jocelyn began with photography not much after she learned how to walk and talk. "I began taking photos when I was about six years old," She says. Although her hands were small, she quickly grew accustomed to working with a big camera.

"A good image is captured with your eyes...and head. Equipment helps, but working with light and composing with the right mix of journalism and art is what distinguishes me from other photographers."



Sparkle Fish - Jocelyn Stokes 2009 ©

Even as a small child, Jocelyn was not afraid of trial and error, nor the repetition that it takes to learn a craft. After countless rolls of film and compiling loads of photo-boxes filled with clouds, trees, bugs, squirrels, critters of all kinds and almost anything else that happened to be around her; she saw her vocation.

Her mother, who was on hand added, "Not only was Jocelyn shooting photos as she grew-up, she also sold them. Even as a small child, she would display her "art" on the front porch, then march up-and-down the street with a sign to drum-up customers for her creations."

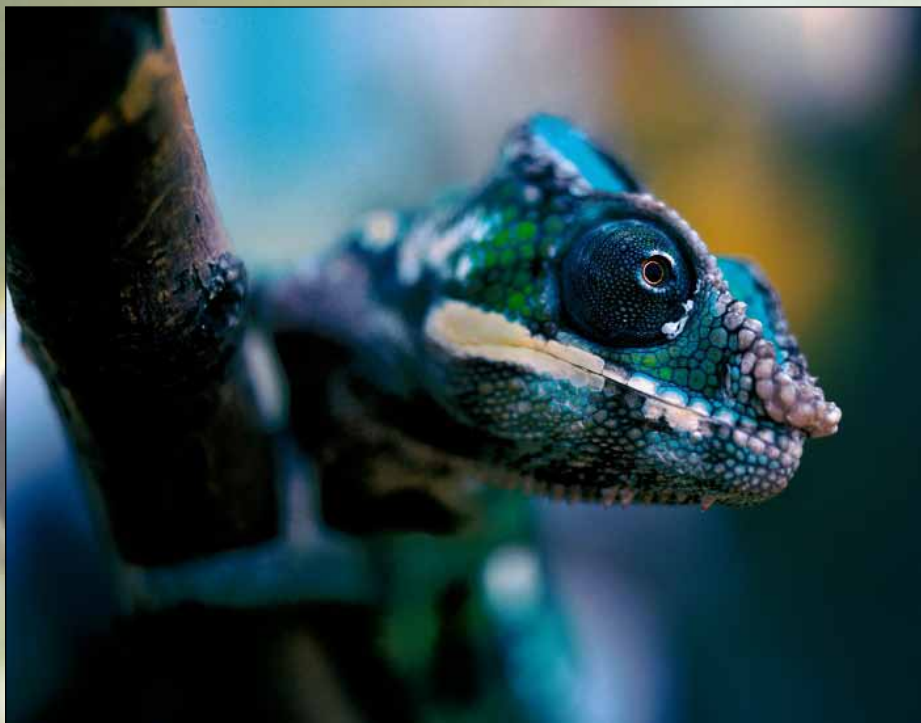


Cattle Egret - Jocelyn Stokes 2009

Jocelyn's initial subjects were flowers, beans and kitties. Today, she has since moved to capturing more dangerous creatures.

She realized this just last year, while on assignment in Alaska (US). She was capturing as many images as she could of the natural beauty, which led her at one point to grizzly bears.

"I was alone, in the deep bush of Alaska, with a really big grizzly bear in my viewfinder. I looked around me and thought, 'this could get hairy!"



Cam - Jocelyn Stokes 2008 ©

But, I got the shot ... the bears, were way more interested in playing with butterflies in the grass than messin' around with me."

Shortly after arriving in Korea, Jocelyn noticed a discarded mannequin outside of her apartment. After walking past it on her way to and from work, it intrigued her *"I'm a recycler. I guess that extends to my art."* She saw the retired merchandiser not as a piece of trash, but as something that just needed another use.

That other use was as the medium of a sculptural-painting. **Mannequin**, is a celebration of feathery color that wisps the eyes away from the torso and makes each perspective a new form.

This sustainable living philosophy extends to Jocelyn's goals for the future. She is directing her talents toward inspiring people of this planet to try harder to preserve our current ecosystems.

She says that, *"Southeast Asia has diverse ecosystems. There are so many unique and special habitats that sustainable actions can help to*



Emperor - Jocelyn Stokes 2008 ©

preserve. We just have to use new ways to do our living. New ways that help what's around us."

Some of those natural resources are already benefiting from Jocelyn. A new series of her conservation photographs are appearing



Butcher - Jocelyn Stokes 2009 ©

in campaigns that are helping a substantial environmental organization to raise funds to help protect endangered species and cultures. Primarily the Borneo Sun Bears, Sumatran Rhinos and Aborigines.

Limited edition photos of this series are available online at www.JocelynStokes.com. A portion of all proceeds go toward sustainability.

This show lasts until September 22nd. The GAIA Art Gallery is on the fifth floor of the Jeon-il Building, in downtown Gwangju.

This show is made possible by a grant from the Global Village Project of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to GAIA and the Gwangju Association of International Artists.



Opening Invitation
Jocelyn Stokes 2009 ©