

LENSWORK

Photography and the Creative Process · Articles · Interviews · Portfolios

QUARTERLY

Essays Brooks Jensen Duane Michals Michael A. Smith

> Interview Linda Butler

Portfolios Wynn Bullock Linda Butler Michael A. Smith



LENSWORK



Photography and the Creative Process Articles • Interviews • Portfolios

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LensWork Special Editions Print Catalog



EDITOR'S COMMENTS





Just 90 days ago, in the last issue of *LensWork Quarterly*, we announced the launch of the *LensWork Special Editions Print Collection*. We had no idea the overwhelming amount of support and enthusiasm we would gather for this project in such a short period time. We could not have guessed that this humble addition to LensWork Publishing would gain such momentum in just 90 days.

As I write this in the beginning of January, we already have 24 photographers signed up for the program, including such masters of photography as Wynn Bullock, Jay Dusard, Oliver Gagliani, Bruce Barnbaum, and many others. We're moving into a new building, we've hired additional staff, and developed a method to produce over 200 fine art prints, archivally washed and toned, every day!

Longtime readers of *LensWork* will know that one of my personal favorites in the history of photography is photographer

Wynn Bullock. His was the photography that first lit my fire of interest back in the early 70's. I spent many, many hours in the library looking at books of his photographs and was delighted to dedicate *LensWork Quarterly* #7 to his work. For that issue, released in the fall of 1994, I had the privilege of interviewing Wynn's wife, Edna, and their daughter, Barbara Bullock-Wilson. That issue is long sold out but we've reproduced this interview on our web site as a free download for those of you who didn't have a chance to see it.

One of the most amazing experiences of my life took place just a few weeks ago. Working in cooperation with the Bullock Photography Trust, we were given authorization to publish a series of Wynn Bullock and Edna Bullock images as LensWork Special Editions Prints. These are authorized photographic reproductions using the LensWork Special Editions Print Collection digital negative technique.

Early in December, we scanned a number of Wynn Bullock original prints - some of the classic Wynn Bullock images - Child in the Forest, 1951; Navigation without Numbers, 1957; Driftwood, 1951; Sea Palms, 1968, and others. After we had produced the digital negatives for the LensWork Special Editions Print Collection I went into the darkroom and personally printed each of these images. You can't imagine what a thrill it was for me to see Child in the Forest in my developing tray, an image that I have spent literally dozens of hours admiring. I'm humbled by the power of this work, by the creativity of Wynn's vision, and by a the gift of his artwork that remains with us, long after he has passed on.

I mentioned to Barbara Bullock-Wilson that when I was in the darkroom printing the proofs for the *LensWork Special Editions Prints*, I was overcome with an emotion of respect and admiration for her father's life in photography. I don't claim any particular affinity for the mystical side of life, but I did feel that his presence, through these photographs, was with me in the darkroom. Barbara told me that Edna often felt Wynn's spirit in their darkroom when she took up photography after Wynn had passed away. Who knows? All I can say for sure is that seeing these prints brought

to life again through this spectacular new technology gives all of us an opportunity to appreciate this master's work again.

Let me share with you an anecdotal story about Wynn Bullock's image Child in the Forest. When I was visiting Barbara and Gene (Barbara's husband), scanning Wynn's original prints for the LensWork Special Editions Print Collection, we spread out several photographs from the archive of Child in the Forest – all originals made by Wynn. Gene then brought out one additional version from his personal collection and told me a fascinating story. When Gene married into the family, Wynn gave him a Child in the Forest as a gift. For years Gene and Barbara kept this photograph on display in their bathroom. On one occasion Wynn was visiting and excused himself to use the bathroom where he remained for quite a long time. When at last Wynn emerged he told Gene that he would like to have that photograph back. He explained that this was the best version of Child in the Forest he had ever made. Now, this photograph was in my hands. Clearly, it was an extraordinary rendition of this image the best I had ever seen. It has an amazing sense of light and a delicacy that makes the print glow. This is the original we scanned for the LensWork Special Editions

Print Collection. We reviewed a number of versions of each image and similarly scanned the best for each of the images in the LensWork Special Editions Print Collection — and doesn't this make sense! With the technologies available today, we can reproduce with exceptional fidelity what photographers consider to be their best work. This, too, is reason I think Wynn Bullock was with me in the darkroom.

Some photographers are concerned about letting others print from their negative and rightly so. It's difficult to know if one is preserving the photographer's intent. Of course, Brett Weston went so far as to destroy his negatives so as to prevent people from attempting to print to his creative vision. I understand his concern; in fact I know from firsthand experience how difficult it is to craft a stunning image from a recalcitrant in-camera negative. When I work with my in-camera negatives, my ability to make two identical prints on two successive days is very questionable. Materials change, my moods change, and worst of all the simple act of dodging, burning and bleaching in

the darkroom make replication almost impossible. I think photographers are wise to question the ability of others to interpret their negatives accurately. But now, with the introduction of this new technology where digital negatives can be made directly from scans of the original photographs, this is not an issue. We now have a way to match the artist's intent.

Back in *LensWork Quarterly* #7 when we publish the interview and articles about Wynn and his work, we were not yet including portfolios. We're delighted now to make amends and publish seven of Wynn's classic images in a special presentation in this issue, and simultaneously announce that these seven images are now available as authorized photographic reproductions in the *LensWork Special Editions Print Collection*.

Bonds



Barbara: One of the things I really appreciated and admired about Dad's working method, is that he was never content to rest on something that he did well. He never stopped growing — never.

Edna: *Change* was the Big Word in his life.

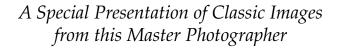
Discussing Wynn Bullock

From an interview with Edna Bullock and Barbara Bullock -Wilson in LensWork Quarterly #7

Wynn Bullock

1902 - 1975





The LensWork Special Edition Prints

1999

Photographs © 1993 by Wynn Bullock from Wynn Bullock: The Enchanted Landscape (Aperture) Wynn Bullock: The Enchanted Landscape and Wynn Bullock, Master's of Photography Series books will be available from Aperture in May, 1999. To order call (800) 929-2323 or fax (212) 598-4015.

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Child in the Forest, 1951

An Interview With Linda Butler



Brooks Jensen: We're pleased to have you back on the pages of

LensWork Quarterly again, Linda, particularly because we're to look at and talk about your new book, Italy: In The Shadow of Time *. I'd like

to begin by having you tell us a little

bit about your photographic history and some of your other projects before we delve into this

book specifically.

Linda Butler:

Well, the first time I seriously used a camera was when I was twenty years old. I spent a year as a student abroad in Japan. I had a 35mm Pentax I explored that culture with. When I came back to the United States I was so disappointed with the black and white and color development over here, plus I was involved in other things, so I put the camera aside for quite a few years.

* Published by Rizzoli, New York, ISBN 0-8478-5784-0 For additional information, go to www.LindaButlerphoto.com

ITALY

In the Shadow of Time



bу

Linda Butler



Remains of a Chapel, near Genova

Dr. Duanus's Infernal Tongue-In-Cheeky Journal

Fartster \ n: one who confuses fashion with art

by

Duane Michals

Recently a young fellow phoned me to ask if I would look at his art photographs. I answered yes, and when he arrived all dressed in black, the color du jour of the hip, I knew he was a fartster on the right track. The works I viewed were giant color prints of famous faces making lewd gestures in public places. Andy would have loved it and approved. I suggested if the idea was to be pursued, they should all be photographed in the nude. The operation scars of the stars would be cool. I'd like to see Madonna's appendectomy. *Interview* would say it passed the test of what was shocking and next. I saw at once he knew shock was the way to go: decapitation, children sexual, anything black and blue or, erectional, vomit and piss, spiked red hair, men dressed up like Cher. Anything obscene, just don't ask: what does it mean?



This article originally appeared in **21st: The Journal of Contemporary Photography**, ISBN 1-892733-00-5

LETTER TO A YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER

bу

Michael A. Smith

March 17, 1992

Dear Hans,

It was with great pleasure that we received your letter last week and learned that you and Nicole are well and that your photography continues to provide much satisfaction and new challenges.

Here, Paula and I have been far too busy, as usual. A few months ago we returned from another long photographing trip out West, and since then have been working day and night on the new book which will accompany my twenty-five year retrospective at the George Eastman House in June. I suppose having a firm deadline is a good thing. Paula tells me that without it I would be revising endlessly, trying forever to perfect the book. It seems that I am compelled to make things as fine as I can possibly conceive of them. I find, at times, that this uncompromising attitude is a curse as well as a blessing.



I have always felt that it is *how* one sees rather than *what* one sees that makes any photograph interesting.

A Portfolio

by

Michael A. Smith



Quod Erat Faciendum

"It is Finished"

bу

Brooks Jensen



Picasso advised that the most valuable lesson a painter could learn was knowing when to stop. In the case of photographers, stopping is not the issue — the shutter takes care of that in jig time. But from my observation *finishing* is the lesson of challenge for photographers.

When Picasso died he supposedly left behind 90,000 completed pieces of artwork. Humph! This is nothing, we proud photographers say! Consider Gary Winogrand who left 10,000 rolls of undeveloped film. Nothing illustrates the problem better than this. You see, this is the curse — photography is so easily confused with *photographing* — the confusion of verb and noun. Photography takes form in finished edition prints, books, posters, exhibitions, and most commonly individually matted and framed original photographs. To be blunt, if you "take pictures" you are not yet a photographer. It is only when you *finish them* that you qualify for the moniker. And finishing requires the C-word — *commitment*.



Fine Art Photographs At Real People Prices

DEBUT CATALOG

February 1999

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(Additional details on page 108)

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Just a quick note to let you know that the special edition print I ordered arrived today in fine condition. The quality of the print is exceptional! In fact, it is incredible.

Jim Wells Walton, IN

Incredible quality. They truly are indistiguishable from my original photographs.

David Grant Best Anacortes, WA

Absolutely fantastic.

Jay Dusard Douglas, AZ

It's about time someone figured out a way whereby everyone could have access to fine art photographs ... You're to be commended for making it happen.

Ed Alexander via email

For a complete and current listing of available prints, see our on-line, real-time catalog at www.lenswork.com

^{*} Please add \$6 per print shipping and handling within US (\$10 Canada/Mexico; \$15 each Overseas)

^{**} Living photographers only, obviously!

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Real People Prices

Each gelatin silver print in the Collection was made from a digital negative, scanned from the artist's original fine art photograph. LensWork Special Edition Prints are printed by hand on gelatin silver photographic paper, toned and archivally processed to the artist's specifications and approval. We reproduce with exceptional fidelity what photographers consider to be their *best* work — with rich photographic black, pure, clean

whites, and the subtleties of all the gray tones in between. Limited Edition prints bear the photographer's actual signature,

and edition information.

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Sample print Ship Rock, New Mexico, 1989 by David Grant Best

THE WYNN BULLOCK COLLECTION

Authorized Photographic Reproductions*

All images approximately 8x10" on 11"x14" paper as shown in Child in the Forest

Master Series Prints are unsigned and unlimited



LWS 019 Child in the Forest, 1951 **Wynn Bullock** \$99



LWS 024 Erosion, 1959 **Wynn Bullock** \$99



LWS 023 Driftwood, 1951 **Wynn Bullock** \$99

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LWS 021 Point Lobos Tide Pool, 1957 **Wynn Bullock** \$99



LWS 020 Navigation Without Numbers, 1957 **Wynn Bullock** \$99



LWS 022 Stark Tree, 1956 **Wynn Bullock** \$99



LWS 025 Sea Palms, 1968 **Wynn Bullock** \$99

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OLIVER GAGLIANI



LWS 014 (Attic) 72-818, 1972 Oliver Gagliani Unlimited, signed \$99

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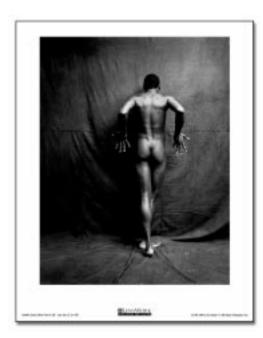


LWS 013 (White Door) 73-150, Eureka, NV, 1973 Oliver Gagliani Unlimited, signed \$99

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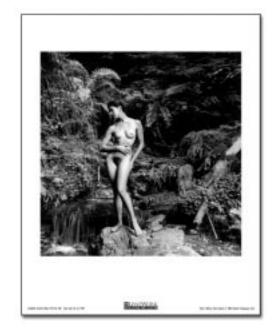
Edna Bullock

AUTHORIZED PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS*



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LWS 029
Three Nudes on Dunes, 1990
Edna Bullock
(Cover image from the book Edna's Nudes)
Unlimited, unsigned
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LWS 001 Suspended Maureen Gallagher (published in LensWork Quarterly #13) Numbered and signed Edition Limited to 250 \$39

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John Wimberley

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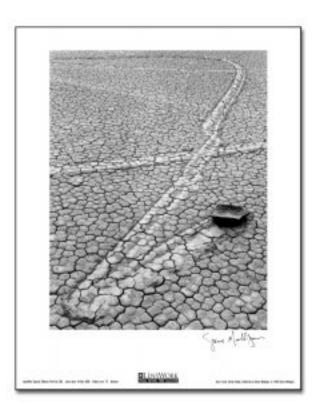
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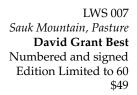
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Race Track
Steve Mulligan
(Cover image, LensWork Quarterly #17)
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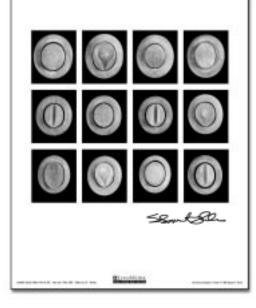
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LWS 008 Temple Roof, Kokenji Temple, Japan Brooks Jensen Numbered and signed Edition Limited to 60 \$49

LWS 005 Hat Forms **Stephen F. Procko** (published in *LensWork Quarterly* #20) Numbered and signed Edition Limited to 60 \$49





LWS 010 Jellyfish Alan McGee (published in LensWork MultiMedia #22) Numbered and signed Edition Limted to 60 \$49

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LWS 002 Tree Shadow Larry Wiese (published in LensWork Quarterly #22) Numbered and signed Edition Limited to 100 \$69





LWS 011
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Undercurrent
Phil Harris
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LWS 004

THE PROCESS OF MAKING THE LENSWORK SPECIAL EDITIONS PRINTS

LensWork Special Editions Prints are all produced in a traditional black & white darkroom, by hand, using the best materials and processing techniques now available.

To begin, the photographer's original fine art photograph is scanned into an ultra-calibrated computer system. The image is fine-tuned in Adobe Photoshop to perfectly match the photographer's original photograph — with sensitivity to tonalities, scale, cropping and detail.

The image is then inspected in the computer at high magnification, where dust spots or marks that might have been introduced in the scanning process are eliminated.

The computer image is then output at a service bureau using a Postscript output image-setter. The resulting LensWork negative is a 425-line screen half-tone reproduction of the image suitable for printing in our darkrooms. An image setter is the same device used in the printing industry to make film for platemaking in the printing of books and magazines. The finest printing presses, however, can print *at best* an image of 300-line screen.

In the darkroom, we *can* print the tiniest 425-line screen dots, since photographic paper can resolve this extremely fine dot and make it

visible. Remarkably, the tiny dots are so small that they are virtually invisible to the naked eye, and barely visible when examined through a powerful viewing magnifier. The resulting "photographic prints" preserve the look and feel of continuous tone photographs even though they are half-tone reproductions. The LensWork Special Editions Prints reproduce with exceptional fidelity what photographers consider to be their best work — with rich photographic black, pure, clean whites, and the subtleties of all the gray tones in between.

These life-size digital negatives are contactprinted in a traditional black & white darkroom to the highest standards, using archival processing and selenium or polysulfide toning. The *LensWork Special Editions Prints* are then air-dried and flattened.

Limited edition prints are then assigned a number within the Edition, and sent to the artist for approval and signature. Each *LensWork Special Editions Print* is signed by the photographer as a testament of their approval (living artist's only) or approved by the artist's estate or trust.

Each print is protected in an acid-free, mylar and 4-ply matte-board presentation folder made to archival standards for safe storage.







Focused clearly on the creative process, LensWork Quarterly side-steps techno-talk and art-speak to offer a stimulating mix of articles, interviews, and portfolios for the photographic artist. Beautifully produced, this anthology-style journal and its cousin multimedia CD-ROM version pair intelligent, insightful and entertaining reading with photographic works from well-known and emerging artists alike.

LensWork Quarterly and the LensWork MultiMedia Edition are "parallel published" four times a year — February, May, August, and November.



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Each issue of *LensWork Quarterly* is printed in a **96-page** paperback book format on bright white, 80-pound paper.

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