

Dotan Saguy: Venice Beach Culture

POSTED ON OCTOBER 11, 2017 - BY ANN JASTRAB



When I lived in Maine and I would travel the 3,000+ miles to Los Angeles, I would often head straight to Venice Beach from the airport. It seemed like such a foreign place compared to the rocky, deep harbored coastline where there was literally no one on the cliffs but me (and maybe Paul Caponigro catching some fleeting rays if the weather was warm enough). The irony is that when I moved to LA years later, Venice Beach was still as foreign as when I lived with lobstermen and several feet of snow and saw the sun rise instead of set over the endless sea. It was because the only constant at Venice Beach was the guy on roller skates playing Jimi Hendrix on his guitar as he sailed past me. Everything else was guaranteed to be different and to be a surprise, a rich, visual surprise, every time I braved the traffic to drive across the sprawl of the city from the east side.



And here today, I was reminded of that surprise when I was jurying [PhotoLucida's Critical Mass](#) competition and came upon [Dotan Saguy's](#) portfolio of Venice Beach Culture. Sure, Muscle Beach and skate boarders, that's expected, but not the shimmering Herculean man stepping out into the light with his one foot lingering in the shadows, almost as if he's being released into a ring (this image is appropriately called "Gladiator."). There is another of Saguy's images, a figure in a pair of toe shoes balanced on a wire from below, the feat seemingly impossible, but captured by the photographer's lens. And then, of course there are giant snakes in the sand at Venice Beach. And of course, children are crawling around in the sand with them. Of course. And as always, the sky is clear and the light is bright and no one has anything to hide. Even the couple stretching before they roller skate past Jimi Hendrix.

Here is what the photographer had to say about this series:

"In a modern western culture where societal norms have rendered in-person contact and spontaneous generosity scarce, Venice Beach is one of the last places where these free-spirited moments still occur frequently and between complete strangers. My project candidly documents unprompted magical moments happening on Venice Beach and the people who take part in them, from the buff Muscle Beach body builders to the frail intoxicated young transients living the bohemian lifestyle.

"Today, as Venice Beach comes under attack by accelerating gentrification and corporate interests, I feel an urgency to create a body of work that documents this endangered culture and the threats it faces while it is still very much alive."

You'll find more snakes, more muscles, and more surreal moments on [Dotan Saguy's](#) website. Maybe even enough to cause you to make an immediate bee line to Venice Beach the next time you land at LAX.



JOIN US!

Sign-up for emails - we'd love to have you!
Be up-to-date with call for entries, deadlines and other news about Exhibitions, Galleries, Publications, & Special Events

Enter your email address [SUBSCRIBE](#)

ALL PHOTO CONTESTS
ON ALL-ABOUT-PHOTO.COM

[Click Here](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

AMP MAGAZINE

Discover the first issue of our brand new magazine!

AMP MAGAZINE #1
LIGHT
JP Terlizzi
Raven's Point
Emmanuel Monzon
Alain Schroeder

#1 - June 2018

[LEARN MORE](#)

Find your Paradise

ADVERTISEMENT

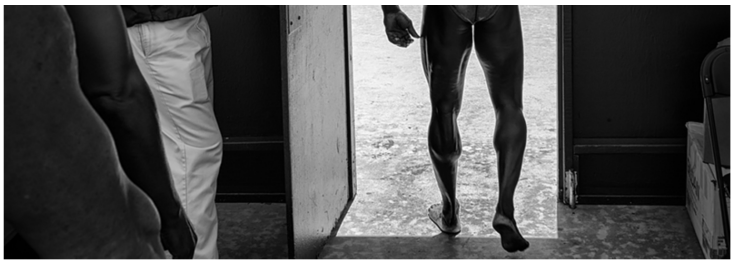
Jules Maeght Gallery
San Francisco
modern and contemporary art

COACH FOR ARTISTS

be-Art magazine









➤ [All about Dotan Saguy](#)

Explore All-About-Photo.com

Google Custom Search



ABOUT US

[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Link Back To All About Photo](#)
[Google +](#)
[Blog](#)
[Newsletter](#)
[Terms of Use](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)

MUST SEE

[Photo Museums](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[Photo Centers](#)
[Photography Schools](#)
[Photography Agencies](#)
[Photography Exhibitions](#)
[Photography Festivals](#)
[Photo Fairs](#)

COMPETITIONS

[All About Photo Competitions](#)
[All About Photo Awards 2018](#)
[Light](#)
[Faces](#)
[All Photo Contests](#)
[Open Photo Contests](#)
[Amateur Photo Contests](#)
[Professional Photo Contests](#)
[Portfolio Reviews](#)

PORTFOLIOS

[Photographers A-Z](#)
[Masters of Photography](#)
[Modern Photographers](#)
[Emerging Photographers](#)

MUST READ

[Photographer Monographs](#)
[Photographic Techniques](#)
[History of Photography](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)
[Paper Magazines](#)
[Online Magazines](#)

SERVICES

[Equipment Rentals](#)
[Studio Rentals](#)
[Photo Labs](#)
[Camera Repairs](#)
[Framing Stores](#)